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SONY SENSATION!

EXCLUSIVE! TV TECHNOLOGY TAKES A GIANT LEAP

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Tasty DVF-5020 deck whips up a DVD frenzy!

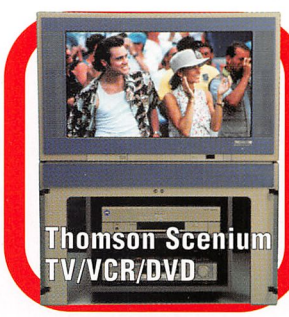
IDEAL IDTV

Sony's digital rear-projection TV hits the mark

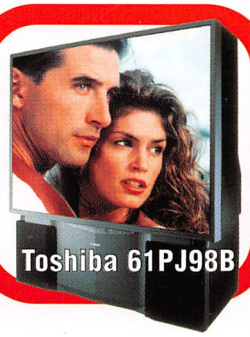
DVD DUCHESS

Nakamichi's regal DVD-10s shows its breeding

£5,000 COMPETITION! TWO OF THESE SONY 36IN TVs UP FOR GRABS


Thomson Scenium TV/VCR/DVD

Panasonic NV-DS35


Toshiba 61PJ98B

Sharp DV-L70S

SIMULATED SCREEN IMAGE

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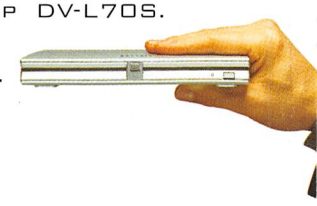

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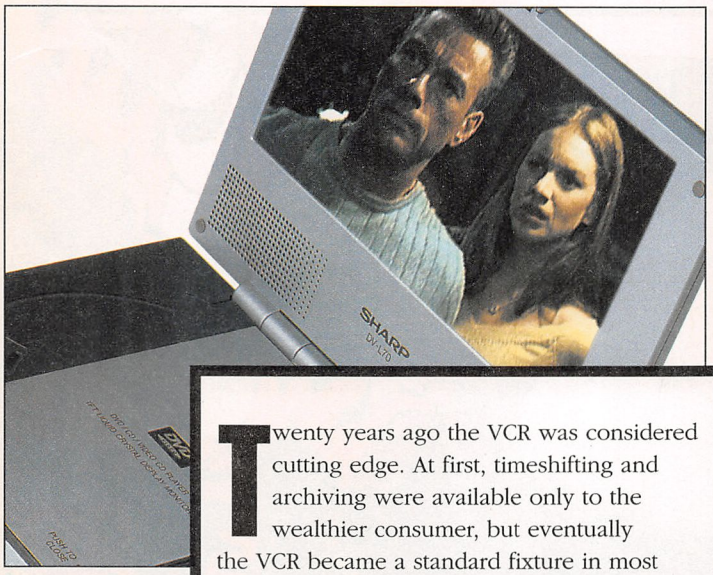
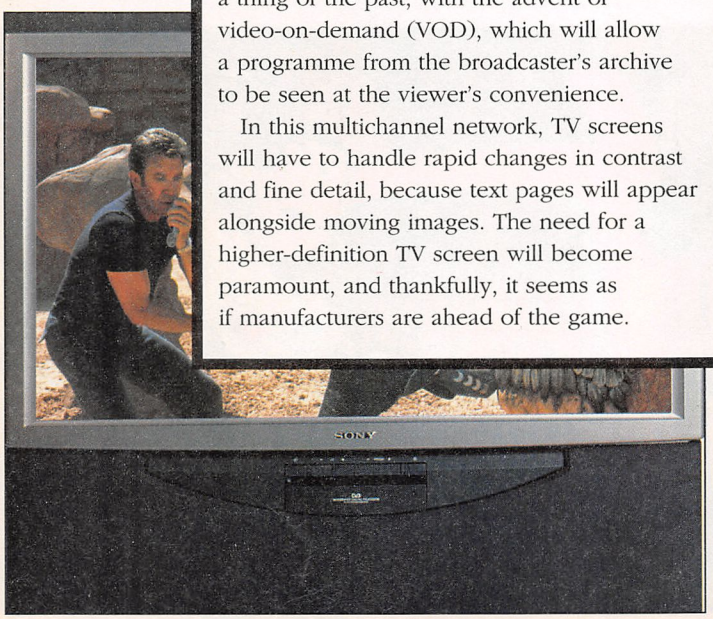
NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS...





Twenty years ago the VCR was considered cutting edge. At first, timeshifting and archiving were available only to the wealthier consumer, but eventually the VCR became a standard fixture in most households. And after a brief format war it seemed as if VHS videotape would be with us forever.

Now, we can safely predict the demise of the VCR as we know it. The world is moving gradually towards disc-based and solid-state technology. While recordable DVD won't represent a truly affordable solution for a few years yet, by the end of 2000 the UK will have its first hard-disk recorders (see *News*, p8). These disk-based recorders won't offer anything more than timeshifting, but may well herald the death of the VCR in some households, especially those that watch movies on DVD.

But even the hard-disk recorder may find itself out in the AV cold one day. Recording and storing programmes could become a thing of the past, with the advent of video-on-demand (VOD), which will allow a programme from the broadcaster's archive to be seen at the viewer's convenience.

In this multichannel network, TV screens will have to handle rapid changes in contrast and fine detail, because text pages will appear alongside moving images. The need for a higher-definition TV screen will become paramount, and thankfully, it seems as if manufacturers are ahead of the game.

"Recording programmes could become a thing of the past"

In next month's issue of *What Video & TV* we'll be looking at some of the TV treats the big guns of the AV world have in store for us in a special supplement, *Future Technology*. This month though, we're already revealing the latest TV technology from Sony, dubbed 'Digital Reality Creation-Multi Function' (DRC-MF), which is due to hit the High Street any day now.

The term 'DRC' might just seem like marketing babble, but Sony claims that its new technology is a milestone in the performance of TV screens, taking an ordinary PAL broadcast signal and converting it to an image approaching that of high-definition (HD) TV.

As regular readers will know, I have complained bitterly about the absence of HD in the UK, while the good folk of the US (and soon Japan) are able to watch broadcasts in the highest definition known to mankind.

It now seems that, thanks to Sony's boffins, we in the UK could be blessed with the best of both worlds – multiple channels and (quasi) HD. Our exclusive test of the first UK set to sport DRC-MF, the 36in widescreen KV-36FS70, proves that Sony has indeed created a superb product, with a picture that far outstrips any previously seen. It's not quite HD, but it is a notable advance. So bin that Prozac, things are looking up...

Adrian Justins
Editor

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£2,500 Pro-Logic 36in widescreen DRC TV

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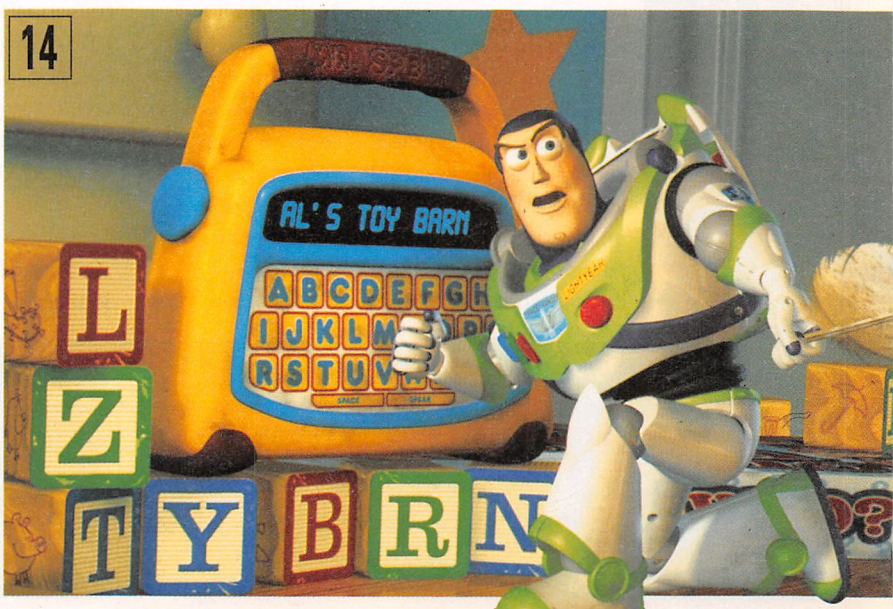

Cover image of Tigger © Walt Disney Pictures

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- Lektropacks MCV-3
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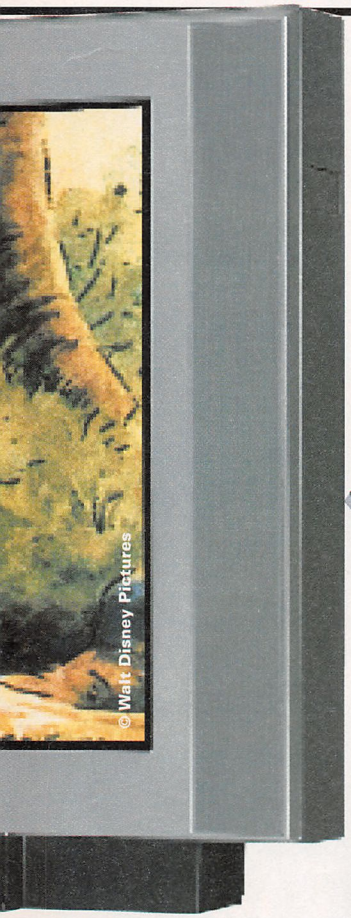
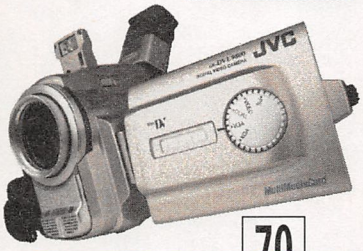
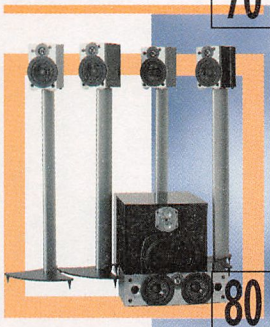
- Thomson 32WF64E
- Thomson DTH-3600
- Thomson VPH7090
- Toshiba 61PJ98B

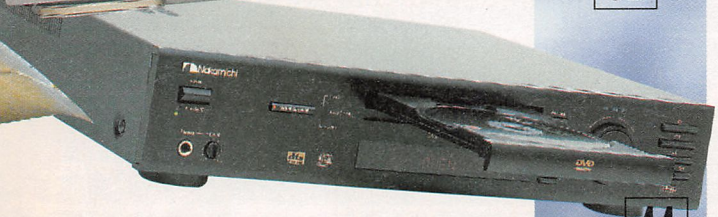
WHAT VIDEO & TV

MAY 2000









EQUIPMENT

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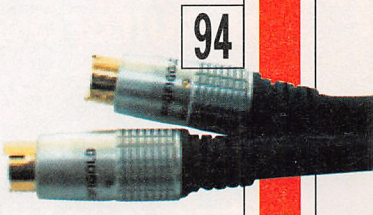

SCREENINGS

102 VHS Screenings
VHS releases this month include: *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace, Buffy The Vampire Slayer (Season 2, Part 1)* and *The Maltese Falcon*

104 DVD Screenings
DVDs reviewed include: *Wild Wild West, American Pie, Romeo & Juliet, Cruel Intentions* and *The War Zone*

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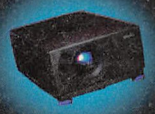

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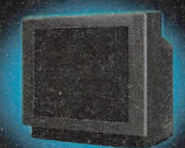

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news

THE LATEST IN VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, TVs, HOME CINEMA AND CAMCORDERS

ASDA TO SLASH DVD AND TV PRICES

The recent deal between supermarket chain ASDA and Germany-based manufacturer Schneider will soon bear fruit, with a range of consumer electronics products at highly competitive prices.

Leading the pack is the Schneider 2816 28in widescreen TV, awarded a *What Video & TV* Best Buy in April '99. The 2816's price has been slashed to £299. Joining the 2816 in May will be another 28in widescreen, the 2818, which boasts an improved specification.

Later in the summer, ASDA is planning to heat up the supermarket price war by unleashing a Schneider DVD player, which will significantly undercut rival Tesco and its best-selling £180 Wharfedale DVD-750 player. Although the price of the DVD deck has yet to be set, it could be as low as £99.

A number of other Schneider AV products will be available in all ASDA outlets, while larger stores will carry an in-house section with specialised staff selling a wider range of products. Plans include VCRs from £70, a 100Hz 32in widescreen TV, plus cut-price surround sound systems.

For further information call Schneider on ☎ 0161 374 0101 or Asda on ☎ 0500 100055.

Meanwhile, Tesco has gone on the offensive with a direct challenge against the Hollywood studios for implementing the DVD regional coding system. Reacting to the fact that, like CDs, DVDs are more expensive in the UK than in the US, Tesco's world-sourcing director Christine Cross says that regional coding is an 'unnecessary practice,' and 'against the sprit of free competition and a potential trade barrier'.

Tesco has stated that its popular Wharfedale player can be 'handset hacked' to play any disc.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WARNING ON PHILIPS DVD PLAYER HACKS

Following our guide last month to modifying many current DVD players (see *The Mod Squad*, p66), it has come to our attention that all Philips decks, which can be handset hacked, will lock into whichever region has been selected after 25 changes.

The machine can then only be reset by replacing the digital video board, which costs £100. Philips says that the machines are designed to be altered only occasionally, for example by owners who move from one region to another.

MGI SOFTWARE MAKES VIDEOWAVES

Desktop PC video specialist MGI Software has unveiled its latest video editing package, VideoWave III, priced at around £80. It features analogue and digital video capture, Smart DV rendering, new templates and special effects, support for VideoCD and MP3 audio plus input/output in MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and DV. For further information ☎ 0800 973830 or visit www.videowave.com

SONY IMPROVES DV PALMCORDERS

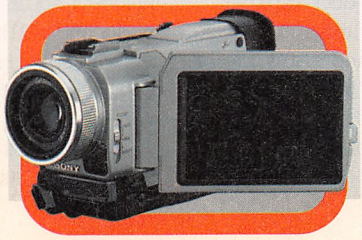
Headlining Sony's latest range of digital camcorders is the DCR-TRV20, a DV palmcorder with 520 lines of horizontal resolution and an XGA digital stills camera. Available at the end of April, the £1,500 TRV20 incorporates a built-in Memory Stick for storing digital stills.

Other features include a 10x optical zoom, 3.5in fold-out LCD monitor and digital and analogue video inputs and outputs.

Two other DV cams without a megapixel CCD or VCR line inputs will join the range, the £1,100 TRV11 and £1,000 TRV6.

Sony has also announced a replacement for its VX1000. The £2,500 three-CCD VX2000, will be launched in the autumn.

The enthusiast-friendly model features digital and analogue video inputs and outputs, manual audio level control, manual focus and manual zoom.



BUSH SPINS OUT ITS WEB TV

Bush is to launch a fully-fledged internet-capable TV in June, the first of its kind in the UK. Building on its recently launched M@il TV (see last month's test of the 1495MTV, p24), Bush's Internet TV will go on sale initially as a 14in 'plug-and-play' portable, priced at under £200. Larger screen sizes will follow.

Bush will also launch an Internet TV set-top box, priced at less than £100, that connects via Scart to most existing TVs. All the products will come with built-in V34 modems and infrared QWERTY keyboard remote controls, although the set-top box's keyboard will be larger.

The subscription-free internet service will be provided by Virgin Net, which will also provide a specially branded 'home page' that acts as a portal to the rest of the world wide web. Users will merely pay for a local phone call while on-line. The system can also be switched easily between live TV and internet modes.

When *What Video & TV* was given a fully working demonstration of the system in early March, it appeared to boast ease of use and most of the functionality of a PC, without a computer's cost or complicated operating system.

Bush's system does have limitations. For example, internet audio formats are not supported, although other functions such as e-mail and the ability to store favourites are provided. The hardware also allows web-page text to be reformatted according to screen width and three different text sizes can be selected.

Both the TV and set-top box come with printer output ports. There is support for a small number of inkjet printers, and Bush plans to launch its own low-cost printer in the near future.

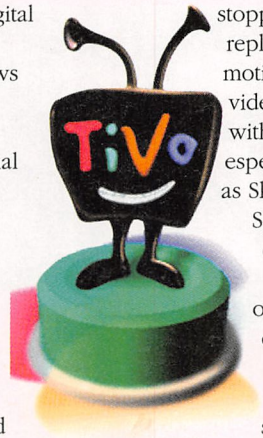
For further information call Bush on ☎ 01923 859777.

news

SKY AND TIVO TO LAUNCH HARD-DISK RECORDERS

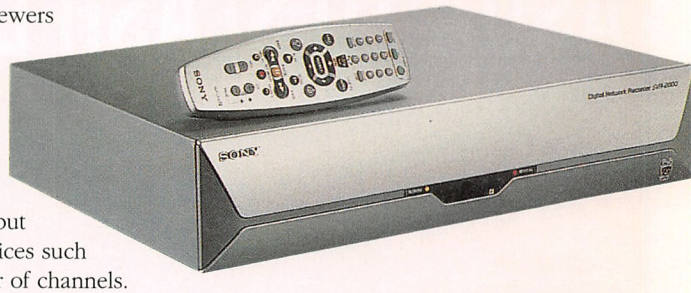
Sky has formed an alliance with US-based TiVo to co-brand its planned hard-drive-based personal video recorder, due to arrive in the autumn. The digital recorder will be the first of its kind in the UK, and follows a successful TiVo launch in the US.

TiVo's trademarked Personal TV service allows viewers to customise their timeshift recordings. Using a 'thumbs up, thumbs down' pair of buttons, viewers can set preferences for shows they like and dislike. The internal hard disk will automatically record a personalised schedule of favourite programmes.



The hard disk also allows viewers to pause any TV broadcast and resume from where they stopped, perform an 'action replay' or play in slow motion. The personal video recorder will work with any UK TV broadcast, but especially complements services such as Sky due to its vast number of channels.

Specific UK content tailored for Sky digital will offer Network Showcases, a collection of information on themed or seasonal shows across a range of channels, and an interactive guide to upcoming highlights to help users select future recordings. The service should replace a current gap in the Sky digital service, namely the lack of a timer feature to select particular channels and programmes for timeshifted video recording.



Sky's chief executive Tony Ball says, 'Sky and TiVo's new personal television service with the personal video recorder will dramatically enhance the TV viewing experience for all consumers in the UK.'

Various electronics companies are expected to produce the UK TiVo boxes for distribution through usual retail outlets. Pricing has yet to be announced.

skydigital

SKY TARGETS INTERNET

As its number of digital subscribers reaches 2.6m, BSkyB is to pour £250m into new media ventures over the next 12-18 months in a push to increase its on-line presence. It will focus in particular on its revamped sky.com and skysports.com sites, as well as building links between TV, the internet and interactive TV.

The broadcaster has also been talking with mobile phone operators, such as Vodafone, to provide multimedia content for the next generation of internet-ready cellphones. Sky has also been in talks with internet giant Yahoo about sharing content.

Sky's target for its digital service (which launched in late 1998) is 5m subscribers after the first five years. Sky's main rival, ONdigital, had reached 508,000 households by the end of 1999.

SHARP CAM STARTS LCD REVOLUTION

Sharp has upped the ante in the DV camcorder stakes with the launch of its VL-PD6 ViewCam. The model sports a revolutionary detachable LCD screen, which allows the user to monitor the action and control the camcorder from a short distance away.

Other features include a zoom mic, SmartMedia digital still image storage, an 810,000-pixel 1/3in CCD, 10x optical zoom, Gamma Brightness Compensation and Sharp's version of Sony's NightShot, Super Cat's Eye.

i.Link on the VL-PD6H is output-only and the cable for the detachable remote control LCD is an optional extra, but the cam does include manual override of focus, shutter speed, exposure and white balance. Weighing just over 600g, the VL-PD6 will sell for £1,100 when it hits the shelves in April.

For more information call Sharp on ☎ 0161 205 2333.

HOME CINEMA SHRUNK TO FIT

Goodmans is to sell an all-in-one home cinema solution aimed at cable-loathing owners of smaller-sized living rooms. The AL-P2000, which will sell for around £650, features a 28in widescreen television plus an AV module.

Included in the module is a DVD deck capable of playing back MP3 files, amplifier and 10W left and right speakers, centre speaker and a 30W subwoofer. The DVD player and AV module will be available separately for around £280.

Although the exact specification of the DVD player has yet to be finalised, it will almost certainly be handset-hackable to play discs from other regions. Other TV sets due for launch include a 4:3 28in model and a 21in set, which will sell for £550 and £450 respectively.

For further information contact Goodmans on ☎ 023 9239 1000.

DENON'S EX-TRA SPECIAL AMP

Denon has announced the UK launch of its AVC-A10SE THX Ultra/EX amplifier. The unit will be available in April, priced at £1,300. Key features include THX Ultra-Certified and THX Surround EX decoding, Dolby Digital, DTS and DTS ES decoding, manual THX EX selection for non-EX encoded sources, maximum power output of 5 x 125W, 24-bit, 96kHz D/A conversion and 6/8-channel external inputs for compatibility with DVD-Audio and SACD sources. The unit uses onscreen displays and sports component video connectivity (two inputs, one output).

Denon has also announced the launch of a THX Ultra-Certified 2-channel power amplifier, the POA-T10, which is designed to complement the AVC-A10SE.

The unit will be available in August, priced at £500. When combined with the POA-T10 the AVC-A10SE will provide 6.1/7.1-channel decoding and 7.1-channel playback of conventional sources. The POA-T10 boasts Dual Monoaural configuration, which means that each amplifier channel is powered by separate high-current transformers, thus providing the widest dynamic range possible.

For more information call Denon on ☎ 01234 741200.

DIGITAL8 BOOSTED BY LONG PLAY

Sony has improved its Digital8 camcorder range with the addition of long play recording, which means a 90min Hi8 tape will now record for 90min (or 60min in SP). Other refinements include a 25x optical zoom lens, an improved viewfinder and a Super Laser Link function, which allows cable-free monitoring on a TV up to 8m away. Memory Stick digital still image storage also appears for the first time on non-DV camcorders.

By the end of April Sony's current analogue and Digital8 camcorder range will be replaced by 12 new models comprising five Digital8, three 8mm and four Hi8 cams. Included in the Digital8 line-up is the £1,200 TRV820, with built-in business card-size printer, which was unveiled at the CES show in January (see *News* in our March 2000 issue, p8).

The other Digital8 models are the TR8000, TRV120, TRV320, TRV620 and TRV820. Hi8 machines include the TR717, TR918, TRV67 and TRV87, while 8mm models comprise the TR427, TRV48 and TRV57.

For more information call Sony on ☎ 0990 111999.

PANASONIC SHOWS SPRING COLLECTION

Panasonic has unveiled its latest digital and analogue camcorder range. Headlining are the £1,200 NV-DS55 and £1,100 NV-DS35 DV palmcorder models. More compact than their predecessors, the cams sport 15x optical zoom lenses, improved 2.5in LCD monitors, a Quick Zoom function and a fast-charge Li-ion battery.

Other features include i.Link output and Progressive Photoshot mode. The DS55 adds MultiMedia Card digital still image storage. For a full review of the DS35 see p68.

The analogue range incorporates a more compact design than has previously been seen and the star machines are the £450 NV-RS7, £500 NV-VS4 and £550 NV-VS7 which use Expansion Technology to incorporate S-VHS-ET recording. This means that high-band S-VHS recordings can be made on low-band VHS-C tapes.

All the cams feature a 20x optical zoom lens, digital image stabiliser, 0lux NightView, Voice Zoom microphone and fold-out LCD screens. The NV-VS7 has a digital title superimposer, plus digital noise reduction, timebase correction and multi-screen picture-in-picture effects.

The NV-VS4 and NV-VS7 sport fold-out LCD monitors. The ET cams are joined by a brace of VHS-C models, the £350 NV-RZ1 and the £400 NV-VZ1.

For details call ☎ 0990 357357 or see www.panasonic.co.uk ▶

UPDATE

GTH'S ENHANCER ENHANCED

GTH Electronics has added several more features to its Advanced Colour Enhancer (ACE). It now offers vertical colour shift, RGB or YUV output, up to four composite video outputs and colour standard conversion from Secam and NTSC. For further information ☎ 01473 625547 or visit www.gthelectronics.com where you can also buy on-line.

LINK WITH MODIFIED DVD PLAYERS

Link Electronics now offers over 100 models of modified DVD players. New additions include the recent players from Grundig, Hitachi, JVC, Kenwood, Pioneer, Philips, Sharp, Sony and Toshiba. Most of the modifications cover all six regions and some also disable Macrovision copy protection.

For further information ☎ 01733 553333 or visit www.linkonline.co.uk

ERRATUM

In our review of the Grundig Arganto television (March '00, p52), we stated that the set does not come supplied with rear surround speakers. This is in fact, not the case.

Also, although our review sample had a non-functioning subwoofer, we are now satisfied that this fault does not appear in the sets on sale. We are happy to increase the set's rating for sound to 8. Overall, well worth a look.

news

HITACHI UNVEILS DVD TRIO

Hitachi is to expand its range of DVD players with three more models. The range, which goes on sale by the summer, will replace the successful DV-P250E and complement the already announced flagship DVD/CD-recording dual deck, the DV-W1E.

The entry-level DV-P305E has a number of features and connections, such as 2x and 4x zoom, RGB output via Scart, DTS output and virtual surround sound.

The DV-P505E is the step-up version, which adds a high-speed DVD drive, 100x picture search speed, CD-R/RW playback, built-in Dolby Digital decoder, screen saver and NTSC playback conversion to PAL 50 and 60Hz.

Finally, the DV-P705E is the deluxe gold-coloured version, boasting all the features of the above plus Hitachi's revised Disc Navigation system, gamma picture correction control, digital noise reduction, 120x search speed, smooth search system and headphone socket.

Disc Navigation creates a fast scene-access menu with thumbnail images for each chapter. This is a supplement to any such menu on the disc but always looks and works the same way. The improved version makes each thumbnail image a moving clip.

For further information, call Hitachi on ☎ 01628 643000 or visit the company's website at www.hitachi-consumer-eu.com

Hitachi's new entry-level player is to be the silver-clad DV-P305E

OPEN EXPANDS RANGE OF SERVICES

Interactive digital TV service Open has expanded its range of content providers with Comet, Cornhill, First Choice and the Met Office adding their own areas. Comet will offer various home electrical products for sale from the summer. From April, Cornhill Direct will offer life, home and pet insurance (from Pet Plan), with more products added later in the year.

Finally, First Choice Holidays is to provide a full, real-time holiday booking service in time for the summer break.

Late March also saw the debut of the first interactive TV advert on Sky digital. The ad for Chicken Tonight – which will run through April – sports an onscreen text menu which invites viewers to visit a related area on Open and apply on-line for a voucher. Other interactive ads are set to follow.

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PLAYSTATION 2'S DVD LET-DOWN

After months of speculation, Sony's much-hyped PlayStation 2 games console went on sale in Japan recently. Much has been made of the games console's DVD playback specification, with some commentators predicting the demise of standalone DVD decks. Looking much like a typical piece of Sony AV hardware, the PS2 offers an AV multi-out connection (presenting users with the option of composite or RGB output via Scart), optical digital out, a Type 3 PCMCIA card slot, an i.Link and a pair of USB ports.

The 128-bit console plays CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMS and DVD-Video.

But, rather than featuring built-in MPEG decoding, the machine is supplied with a CD containing software drivers. These must be downloaded onto a memory card to enable DVD decoding. Because of this, the machine is currently prone to artefacting and high levels of noise interference during playback.

There is also no remote control available at the moment, so disc navigation is via a game controller and onscreen GUIs. Also available are constantly upgraded drivers, an external MPEG decoder from Sony or a third-party manufacturer to fit the PCMCIA slot.

NEWS IN BRIEF

R2 DTS DEBUT RUMOURED

Rumours abound that the first official UK Region 2 DVD title to carry DTS sound will be Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*. A UK DVD release is expected in July (about eight weeks after its Region 1 release). Paramount's US release is due to have standard Dolby Digital 5.1, while the UK release, by Pathé, will reportedly be a dual-format DD/DTS disc to showcase the excellent DTS format.

COMPETITION WINNERS

The winner of our February Sky digital/Hitachi widescreen TV competition is Wayne Davies of Swansea, while Catherine Martin of Ayrshire wins first prize in that month's TDK contest. She bags a year's supply of TDK videotapes and a Toshiba V859B VCR. Fifty runners-up will also receive three blank videotapes shortly.

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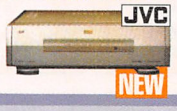

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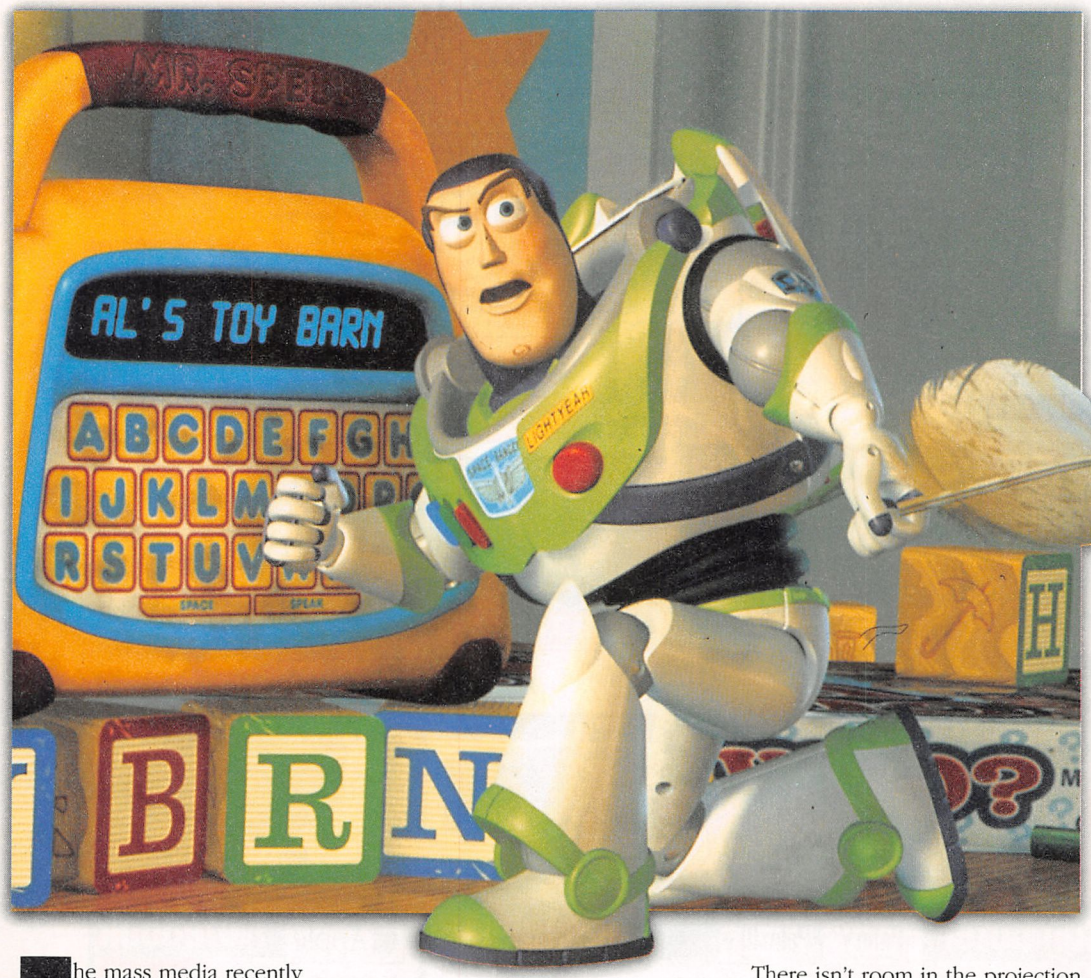
barry fox

FLICKS KNIFED

This month, our caustic correspondent describes the shenanigans surrounding Disney's release of *Toy Story II* on digital video, and an underwhelming visit to the Millennium Dome



The mass media recently got very excited when Disney decided to screen *Toy Story II* on digital video, not film, at three cinemas in London and Manchester.

The chosen system uses Texas Instruments' mirror chip projectors, with the movie stored in high-definition quality on computer hard discs. As *Toy Story II* was made entirely from computer-generated images, I'm sure it looks as good as it did on the studio's computer screen.

The studios plan to eliminate the cost of printing 35mm film, storing and delivering the cans. They also want to avoid the cost of striking fresh prints when cinemas damage the originals. If cinemas can be persuaded to install a video projector, digital disc or tape playback system, and download movies from optic fibre line or satellite dish, studios save a bundle.

But to come anywhere near matching 35mm film for picture brightness and clarity, the cinema must invest around £100,000 on new gear. Most cinemas rely on popcorn sales for their profit and cannot afford new carpets, let alone a digital video system. There isn't room in the projection room for a video projector as well as traditional film equipment. Junking the film projector means the cinema can only show new video 'prints'.

PIRATES' PARADISE

Then there is the issue of piracy. Anyone with access to the digital signal can make a copy and then clone it any number of times. Of course, the signal will be encrypted and supposedly impossible to copy – just like the signals on DVD discs which are protected by Panasonic's CSS.

As we now know, CSS is so flaky that it can be hacked by a Pentium PC in 18sec. When the studios tried to stop people posting details of the hack on the internet they presented court evidence that gave away more secrets.

And how does the TI mirror projector handle real movies like *Gone With The Wind* or *2001* on a big screen, with switched A/B comparison of the same pictures from film and video? Significantly, although TI used to promote its mirror system to techie hacks like me, it fell silent on the recent *Toy Story II* event and worked with Disney to target the ever-gullible tabloid hacks who have now obligingly predicted 'the end of film'.

Dream on Disney and TI.

DOME OF DOOM

My dealings last year with the Dome's organising quango (the New Millennium Experience Company) left me fearful of what would end up in it. And those fears were well and truly born out when I made a duty trip.

No Imax. No 3-D. And so few hands-on exhibits or simulator rides that there are hour-long queues even when far fewer people than expected are paying £20 a head to get in.

Everything looks as if it was constructed in a hurry, on a tight budget and to satisfy committees of bureaucrats. Anyone with an interest in video will like the open-frame back projectors in BT's Talk Zone. But all they show is a looped video about talking.

The mock-ups of future videophones have stuck-on pictures instead of screens, and no useful explanations.

The Money and Learning Zones had crashed computers. Even with poor attendance the bottleneck Body Zone, where people get to go inside a giant model of a human, had long queues.

Marconi's Mind Zone uses high tech video and audio 'to encourage youngsters to consider a career in science and technology'. When I went several exhibits were unfinished or already broken. Infrared cameras peered into a smoke-filled cabinet that was waterlogged because the Dome is colder than Marconi expected.

There were no signs to explain how a computer-generated starfish, projected from the ceiling onto a horizontal screen, learns from human touch by infrared sensors and neural networking.

"The Dome has no Imax. No 3-D, and very few hands-on or simulator exhibits"

Bewildered visitors were funnelled through a room with electronically generated surround sound, but no guidance on what it was for. Projectors screened large video pictures, with no clue to what they meant.

Just for the heck of it I asked Marconi for comment on this sorry mess. After all, Marconi was once a pioneer in TV. For two weeks my questions were either ignored or passed round the company like a hot potato.

Finally, after Marconi realised I was not going to go away, a spokesman admitted 'there have been some operational and design issues which need further adjustment.' More signs are promised!

NEW BLOOD, NEW IDEAS?

Heads have, of course, rolled recently, with Pierre-Yves Gerbeau, wunderkind of Disneyland Paris taking the helm. Unfortunately, the Dome's organisers originally scorned Disney, whose theme parks offer white-knuckle rides, fun experiences and Imax big-screen excitement.

Epcot in Florida adds education to the mix. Visitors sit in a room to learn about dinosaurs, then suddenly the room turns into a vehicle which carries them into an enormous open space where dinosaurs roam. Other journeys create future landscapes with 70mm film. This is possible because the ground underneath the Disney theme parks is a rabbit warren of tunnels and caverns. Watch the movie *Westworld* to get a feel for how it's done.

The Greenwich Dome was built on polluted land, once the site of munitions factories and gasworks. The poisoned soil was capped off with concrete, so there was no chance of burrowing underneath. But the Dome is so huge that there would still be room for Imax experiences above ground.

When Walt Disney first opened his theme park in California it was a mess, with rides not working properly. He knew it and vowed to get things right. Because it was an open-ended project Disney could throw money at the Annaheim site and make it a world-famous attraction.

We can only hope that Mr Gerbeau will transform the Dome from a millennial mess into its intended role as a proud symbol of 21st century Britain ❐

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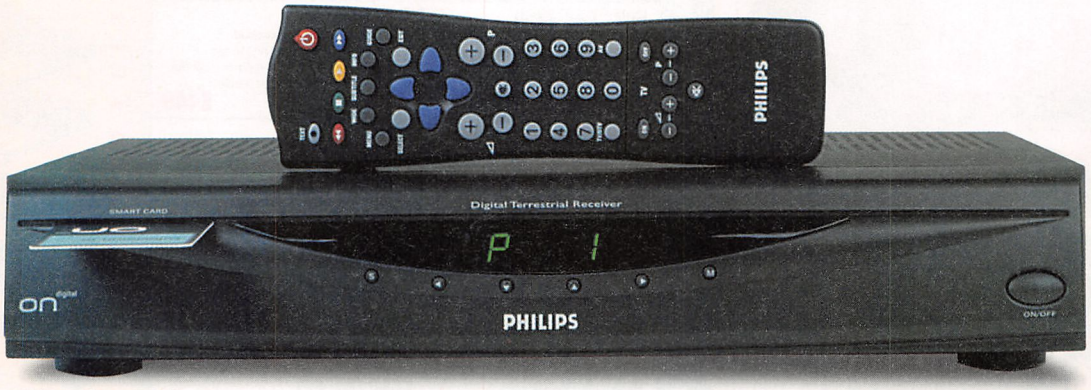


Now hear this – what's the story with ONdigital and stereo?

NICAM NIGGLE

Just before Christmas I picked up a free ONdigital Philips set-top box. This was the cheapest means of obtaining my beloved Sky One. I have been a Sky subscriber right from the beginning, but have moved address a lot over last year.

I'm now able to form an opinion of ONdigital, and it's rubbish! For a start, there is no teletext on any of the channels – including the terrestrial ones. No Sci-Fi, no Bravo and, worst of all, no Sky News! You get the totally inferior BBC News 24 instead.

I also tried asking ONdigital's technical helpline if it transmitted in Nicam. 'We transmit in digital sound,' came the reply, which is apparently 'better than Nicam'. The fact that none of my Nicam VCRs would record in stereo as a result of this non-Nicam signal seemed to pass him by!

However, over the past week I have noticed that the Nicam lights on my equipment are on, suggesting that it is now receiving a Nicam signal. Do you know if ONdigital is now transmitting in Nicam?

Tony Parry
via e-mail

ONdigital text should be available for most brands of decoder – after downloading the relevant upgrade off-air. Nicam uses digital technology to send stereo audio alongside an analogue broadcast. There is no need for digital TV, like ONdigital or Sky to use this, as it is already digital (the result is about the same as Nicam – not necessarily better, though – and may depend on the set-top box decoder).

Some VCRs and TVs have a 'Stereo' indicator, whether it's actual Nicam or some other form of stereo. As long as you are using appropriately wired Scart or phono leads between your set-top box decoder and VCR, it should record in hi-fi stereo (which is how Nicam is also recorded from analogue aerial signals).

Your equipment is probably responding to the regular stereo from the box which will be converted back to analogue by the time it leaves the decoder.

SWITCHABLE STBs COMING SOON?

Is there a set-top digital unit available, or in the pipeline, that will decode both digital terrestrial and satellite TV?

I presume that if I buy my own setup I won't have to install a phone connection and endure the commercial rubbish that comes with a free unit.

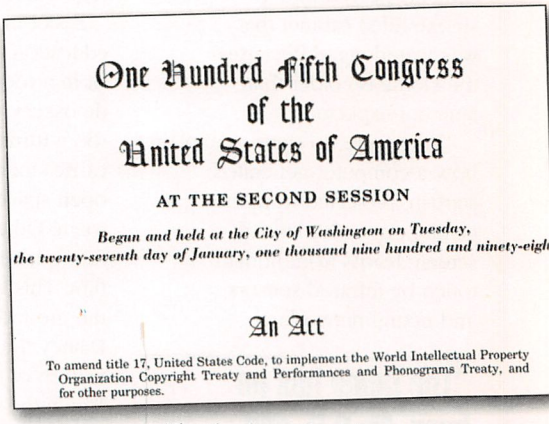
Marise
via e-mail

ONdigital has set May as the launch date for a module that will allow its boxes to decode Sky programming. We are cautious about this, as similar deadlines were given for Digital Teletext that were missed by months, but we live in hope.

You will, however, need to pay for satellite equipment installation which could be upwards of £100. Under Sky's free installation option, viewers don't have to use Open if they don't want to, so it's hardly a matter of 'enduring' it. Also, some of Open's services are information only, such as local cinema listings.

IN DEFENCE OF HACKERS

I must take issue with Ted Abe, general manager of Matsushita's Audio Technology Centre, who was quoted in your Feb 2000 issue (*News*, p9): 'Hackers were able to extract the key that guards the encryption, then use that key in an illegal way to unlock the file data.' There is no law against decrypting encrypted data, but that is beside the point.



One Hundred Fifth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the twenty-seventh day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eigh

An Act

To amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and for other purposes.

The 'hackers' (and I regard the term as honourable and constructive, in contrast to 'crackers'), just wanted to access DVD-Video discs on their Linux computers. The DVD Copyright Control Association is pursuing the matter in US courts, but under US law (the Digital Millennium Copyright Act), reverse engineering is specifically legal for interoperability purposes. The only reason that they are likely to succeed is that they have highly astute and expensive lawyers, plus vast lobbying power.

Also, the DeCSS software can never be used to create DVDs that will play on a DVD player – decrypting the movie is entirely irrelevant for this purpose. Lastly, you can already buy pirated DVDs in Hong Kong for $2.

Philip Hibbs
Nuneaton

Write in to: *Video Mail, What Video & TV*, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU. Or e-mail us at: WhatVideoMail@aol.com including your full name and postal address

More channels than we actually want?

DIGITAL DISCERNMENT DESIRED

I am considering subscribing to digital TV. Each provider appears to have attractive features, but they also have various contract stipulations which make them either expensive or inconvenient.

Can you tell me when (if ever) I will be able to select, for example, my 15 favourite channels, without having to receive up to 40 so-called 'free' channels, which are mainly complete dross.

More importantly, when will I be able to access more than one channel at the same time without paying more than one subscription fee?

Henry Ravenhill
Hornchurch
Essex

Sky's channel-bundle options are quite limited, so you are unlikely to find the exact combination you want without paying for a whole load more. ONdigital does offer a more flexible system, but its total number of channels is smaller.

Digital cable allows an equally flexible option and gives more channels than ONdigital. This is also the cheapest way to get a second decoder, so you can access another channel simultaneously. Phone ☎ 0990 111777 to find out more.

Some of the new developments, such as next-generation set-top boxes, hard-drive recording or later incarnations of D-VHS may be able to access more than one digital channel at the same time, but it's too early to say what will be available or who will be doing it.

WHY THE ONSCREEN TREND MUST STOP

I recently bought a Panasonic S-VHS VCR (NV-HS900) as a replacement for my crocked FS88. I am shocked at how much build/performance quality has declined compared to the robust S-VHS machines of the past. Nor am I happy with the way every operation has to be done via an onscreen menu. The last thing I want to do before nipping down the pub is switch on my TV (after searching for the remote), select the AV channel (after several toggles), then turn on my VCR and enter the VideoPlus codes while looking at the screen. All this just to tape one programme.

What happened to the days when you could just enter the details on the remote and view it on its LCD display, then hit Transmit – the job done in a matter of seconds?

I now see you're encouraging manufacturers to apply this same onscreen technology to Dolby amps and receivers. Why? Is the front-panel display not enough? Do you have to rely so much on the TV just to set up other devices.

I was saddened to see the entry price of the new JVC D-VHS VCR (£1,300!). If we are ever going to see a replacement for the ageing VHS system, then the new technology must come with an affordable price tag.

I fear it will go down the same lonely road as S-VHS, becoming a format merely for enthusiasts and the well-off. This will mean just a few expensive high-end models on the market. But worst of all, no software will be available to encourage the public's interest or enable competition with DVD.

If DVD machines can enter the market at an affordable price, then why not D-VHS? There can only be one winner in the digital recordable format wars, and my money is on the hard disk.

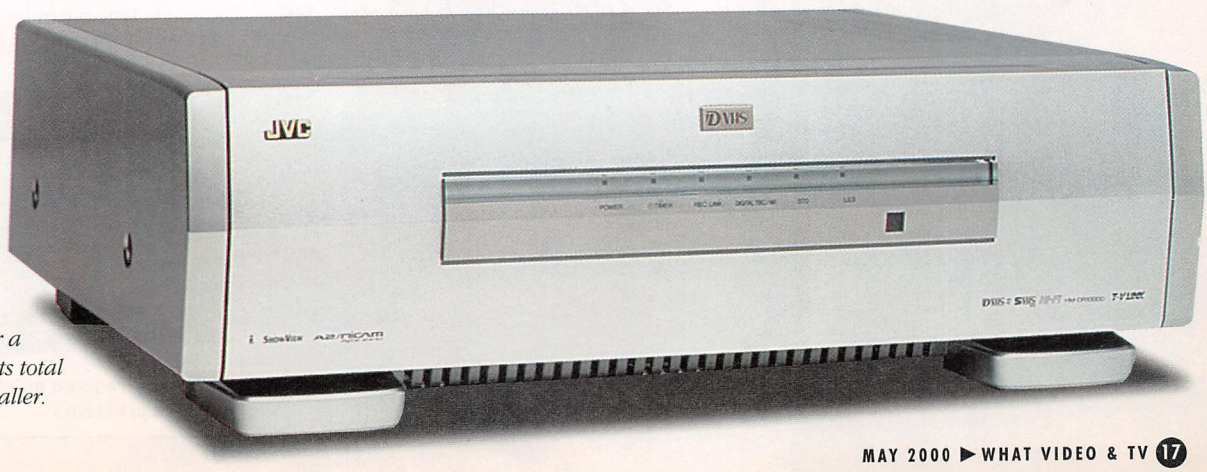
I hope I'm wrong about D-VHS. High-quality recording on videotape is long overdue. But why we should pay over £1,000 to record a programme and watch it at our leisure in exactly the same way it was broadcast is beyond me.

K Mullarkey
Manchester

Manufacturers will probably say that their research shows people prefer onscreen displays. With refinements like tape library systems linked to timer programming, it's inevitable. Perhaps you should get into one of their focus groups!

'Offscreen' programming has made a reappearance with Sony's Dial Timer (which uses the front panel rather than the remote). So far, this approach is confined to Sony's £350 SLV-SE80.

Given the amount of setup data for a Dolby receiver, it's almost essential to use a TV screen. Once this is done though, you can usually get by using the front panel only.



GROWING

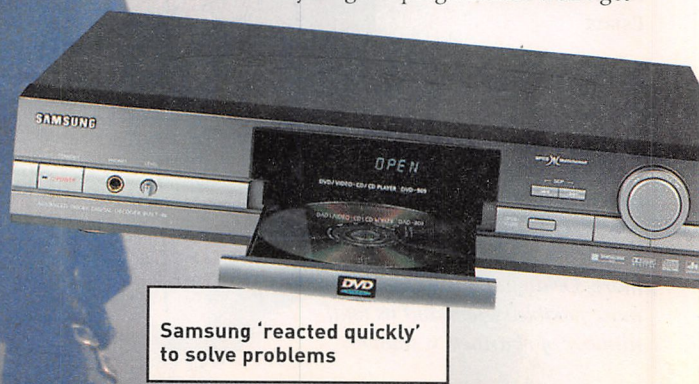
AS DVD continues its explosive global growth, compatibility problems between certain discs and players have become legendary. Guy Rowland quizzes key industry figures to find out why such problems occur and what's being done to prevent future difficulties

DVD has become *the* platform for viewing movies. Its success has been astonishing, yet all is not entirely well with the format. Imagine buying a VCR only to discover that certain VHS tapes won't play in it. Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? Well, that's exactly what's happening right now.

If you bought a Proline DVD1000 from Woolworths last year, you'll already know that when No 1 cyberpunk hit *The Matrix* was released, there was virtually no reality. Samsung DVD-709 owners will have discovered back in October that There Definitely Was Something About Mary (ie, she didn't work), while if you used a Toshiba deck you'd have wondered why the documentary on the *Blade* DVD had been scythed. Stick any of these examples into a different brand player however, and all problems may well have vanished. So, what's going on?

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

A DVD-Video is not a film as such, but rather a program which the player executes – a bunch of codes which can include a movie, game or almost anything the programmers won't get



Samsung 'reacted quickly' to solve problems

PAINS

What is (wrong) with *The Matrix*?

jailed for. Windows PC owners (all-too familiar with computers crashing horribly after installing a new screen saver) will of course know the ominous implications of the word 'program' in that previous sentence.

The industry talks about 'robustness' to describe something that works well across all platforms (CD audio is thought of highly, for example). As with Windows software, DVD is clearly found wanting in this regard. 'It's not a robust specification,' confirms Philips spokesman Nick Thomas, 'and it's too late to go back and fix it'.

Mary was quite contrary

The DVD-Video specification was set in 1997 by the Hollywood studios and hardware manufacturers. The full list of rules and regulations that everyone should adhere to runs to 1,000 pages (plus an addendum), and it's generally reckoned to be about as watertight as the Titanic after its encounter with that iceberg.

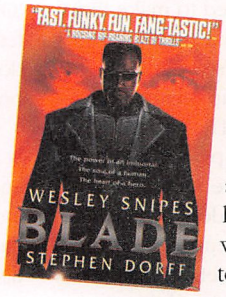
Japanese manufacturers in particular were keen to push on through the talks and worry about any niggling problems later, and thus the time bomb for disc compatibility began to tick about three years ago.

When the US version of *The Matrix* was launched, some people who had modified their DVD decks in the UK found that the disc wouldn't play properly, or not at all. Warner Brothers was quick to leap to the defence of its flagship disc, saying that it adhered fully to the official DVD specification, so consumers turned to the manufacturers for some action. 'Tough luck,' was the basic response, 'You shouldn't be playing these imported discs anyway.'

True enough, so attention swiftly moved to the UK version, whose launch was not far off.

Dominic Chambers, marketing director of Warner Home Video, claims that Warner was in 'constant communication all the way through,' with the manufacturers. He adds that the process had started 'almost immediately. There were some issues in America, and they were working very hard with the manufacturers right from that point.'

Yet on the November 29 release, owners of machines from the humble Proline to a high-end audiophile Nakamichi found that Keanu's cyberblast was a damp squib, and there wasn't an upgrade in sight. Indeed, the more scantily featured UK version caught out even more players than the US one did. While the budget sensation Wharfedale DVD-750 plays the US disc to perfection, a few menu glitches appear on our home-grown platter.



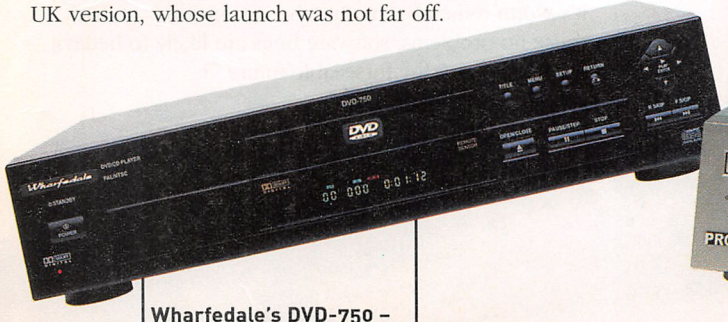
Blade went blunt in Toshibas

Given the co-operation between all interested parties, Chambers is at a loss to explain why the manufacturers were so slow to respond. 'You'd have to ask them,' he suggests.

'Warner gave us advance copies of the disc about two weeks before the UK release,' says Colin Holloway, operations director of Samsung UK. Moreover, believing that the problems with the Stateside disc were concerned with the additional DVD-ROM material, it seems that until Samsung received the advance discs, it was totally in the dark. 'We weren't sure how much DVD-ROM content would actually be on the disc for the UK, so I guess we hoped we would get away with it. We hoped that it wouldn't be an issue, but clearly it was,' says Holloway

As it happened, the company was compelled to act anyway when the UK release of ➤

"In a digital world it's very difficult to protect anything"



Wharfedale's DVD-750 – better with the US *Matrix*

Proline – blasted off the shelves for weeks by *Matrix* glitches

GROWING PAINS

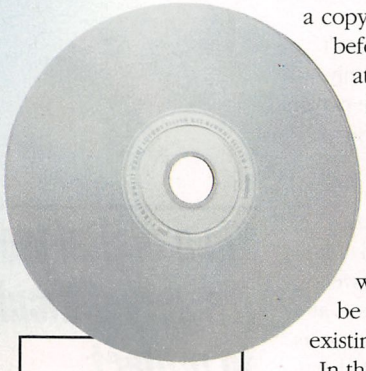
Most discs don't cause players problems

"An independent verification facility could iron out all software problems"

There's Something About Mary wouldn't play on the company's DVD-709. 'With all these things, it's not just as simple as "turn round and fix it"', says Holloway. 'You've got to communicate to Korea as to what the problem is, they need to develop eproms, they then need to ship the eproms over here, we need to get our whole service network set up to rework the machines and decide on a labour rate and then get all our retailers involved. I personally think – and you can call me a bullshitter if you like – we reacted amazingly quickly to that problem, and we deserve a commendation from the industry for having put it right so fast.'

BIG BOYS SUFFER TOO

If Samsung was out of the Warner loop due to its perceived lack of standing, surely things would be better for the major manufacturers? Philips' Nick Thomas suggests otherwise. 'Our people were given a copy of *The Matrix*, ready pressed, two weeks before it went on sale. You can't verify the disc at that stage, it's too complex. Forget it.' If this is all an accurate reflection of events, it's not surprising that no-one managed to make their fixes before the release deadline.



A DVD-VIdeo is not unlike a computer program

So, faced with the public's wrath, the manufacturers and retailers capitulated one by one following the launch. The Proline was withdrawn for weeks until an upgrade could be engineered, and helplines were set up for existing owners to register for upgrades.

In the end, Thomson decided that enough was enough, and commissioned a full independent report to look into the US disc. The report declared that the disc had violated the official specification in one crucial area (the main menu file), and had fallen foul of two other commands 'open to interpretation'.

While Warner Brothers has subsequently stuck to its line that there is nothing wrong with the disc, the company has not refuted Thomson's allegations. While Samsung emerged from this mess an alleged £500,000 poorer, Philips and Hitachi fared rather better, due to forward planning following the original DVD Committee meetings. 'We said "Well, we know it's going to happen, so how will we sort it when it does happen?"' explains Philips' technical manager John Wilson. 'As a consequence, what we decided to do was design our players in such a way that they could be upgraded very easily to take into account new developments – things we hadn't thought of.'

Thus, unlike with Sony or Panasonic, angst-ridden Philips and Hitachi owners are sent an upgrade DVD though the post. By simply putting in the disc, new software self-loads into the machines in a couple of minutes, curing the problem.

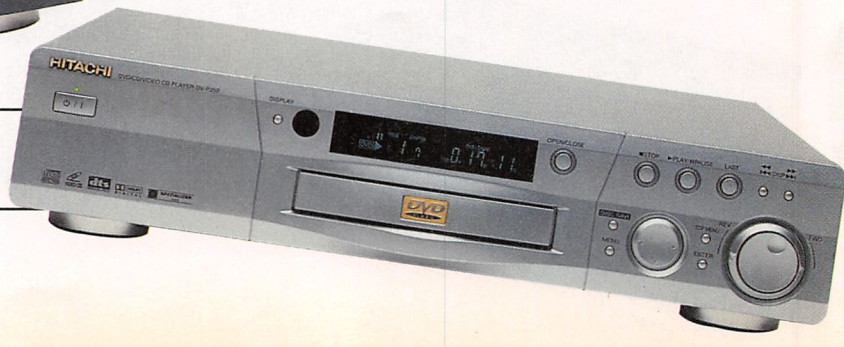
So what of the future? It's in no-one's interests to run scared of high-tech discs which push the technology to its limits. 'I'm sure on our next blockbuster we will have similar type content with similar encoding,' confirms Warner Brothers' Dominic Chambers. 'But we are working constantly with all the major manufacturers to ensure that we don't run into these types of problems, because of course it's not good for DVD.'

'I hope for everyone concerned, particularly the consumer, that we don't have any future problems, but we can't guarantee it,' warns Philips' John Wilson. 'One of the software companies will think of some new feature, and the standard is still a little bit vague and down to interpretation in some areas. So there's still a possibility that we as an industry could be caught out.'

While Philips may have its solution in place, there is another remedy to all the consumer frustration and money-wasting by the other manufacturers. An industry-funded facility, independent of any one manufacturer or studio, could check the code of the discs and players before release, thus ironing out any problems ahead of time. Indeed, Nick Thomas claims that Philips offered to fund the startup costs of just such a group, but was shouted down through lack of interest.

'We're now talking about large amounts of money [to fix compatibility problems], and maybe this is why the time could be right for a verification facility. The money being spent justifies it – maybe they didn't feel originally that it did, and it was a bit visionary on Philips' part,' says Thomas.

The practical difficulties of setting up such a facility might prove insurmountable, or the apathetic approach to dealing with DVD's problems might continue. While it's worth remembering that the vast majority of discs cause no problems, software bugs are likely to bedevil the industry for the forseeable future ❐



Philips and Hitachi owners can be sent upgrades by post

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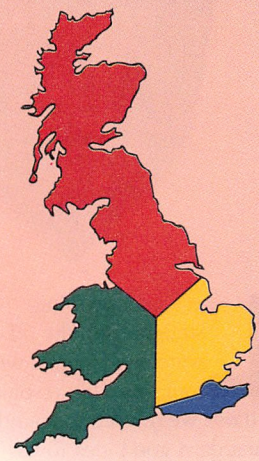

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SONY KV-36FS70 | Pro-Logic 36in widescreen TV

DAWN OF CREATION

Sony's £2,500 KV-36FS70 is the first set to boast DRC-MF technology, which promises to convert standard broadcast material into virtually high-definition-quality images. Steven Armstrong puts it to the test

Let's get one thing straight from the off: watching pictures with four times the resolution of those we're used to sounds like a darn good idea to us. Of all the 'world-changing technologies' to have come our way recently, if Sony's DRC-MF lives up to its billing it could be the one that really makes a difference. And Sony knows it.

It's making some grand claims for DRC-MF (Digital Reality Creation-Multifunction – see box 1 for technical details). For starters, Sony claims that it is a more logical progression for TV than the high-definition TV system (HDTV) making waves in the US (see box 2). But does it really live up to the hype?

DESCRIPTION

If weight was a direct indicator of whether something was any good or not, this review could end now. The 36FS70 would get a stonking 11 out of 10. Yup, the 90kg 36FS70 is quite probably the heaviest television the UK has ever seen.

Settling down to ogle the 36FS70 provides an immediate reminder of how appealing it is to watch a 36in widescreen picture. At 36in the image fills your field of vision more completely, making for an infinitely more involving viewing experience than a 28in or 32in set.

DESCRIPTION

The 36FS70 wears the standard tasteful silver livery of Sony's flatscreen FD trinitron sets, and shares their robust build quality, too. This set is one of the most indomitable-looking pieces of home cinema gear ever. Which is, of course, a good thing.

Under a flap up front there's an S-video input, a composite video input and stereo audio inputs, while to the rear are three Scarts (one RGB, two S-video capable), the RF-in, and a couple of stereo outputs for pushing the audio to an external amplifier.

There's also a roster of 2-pin connectors for attaching external rear, centre and front speakers for listening to Dolby Pro-Logic, which the 36FS70 can decode and amplify (internal centre, left, right and external rear speakers are supplied).

OPERATION

Auto tuning does its thing very proficiently, finding and correctly ordering all channels with no faffing required on your part. It also introduces you to an attractive onscreen menu system, as well as, unfortunately, a joystick-based remote control with which it is easy to accidentally move left, right, up or down when all you meant to do was press 'OK'.

> ***"No other technology makes TV pictures look better"***

The 36FS70 boasts various features in addition to its DRC-MF abilities. Picture Rotation allows you to adjust the angle of the picture to compensate for the Earth's magnetic field. There's also RGB shifting for repositioning

GUIDE PRICE: £2,500

BEST BUY
WHAT VIDEO & TV ©

'I'm telling you Pooh, it's a wonderful creation!'

an RGB picture if it isn't sitting correctly to start with.

Of the 35FS70's fancier tricks, the most fun is multi-picture scan. This leaves a main image in the centre of the screen and then presents 12 other mini screens around it showing what's going on elsewhere.

You can also split the screen in two, and when you select teletext the picture moves discreetly to the side without disappearing. In teletext mode you can navigate sub-pages manually once they have been loaded, so you don't have to keep waiting for them to cycle round again.

A rather redundant feature (in the UK) is NexTView. If we were in a country with broadcasters who supported this feature, we would be able to call up information on programmes. Even better, we could use onscreen TV listings to set the TV to record or switch to particular programmes when they started.

Rather more handy to us Brits is Smartlink, which allows advanced communication between the TV and a Smartlink-compatible VCR. If you have such a VCR, you can, say, download the TV's tuning information to the VCR, or instantly record whatever's showing on the TV via a single button press.

Beyond the usual adjustments for brightness, contrast, etc, the picture tweaks available are restricted to the DRC50 and DRC100 options discussed in Box 1. AI analyses the incoming signal and automatically tries to optimise the contrast to suit it; and automatic noise reduction improves the image if you're struggling with a weak signal.

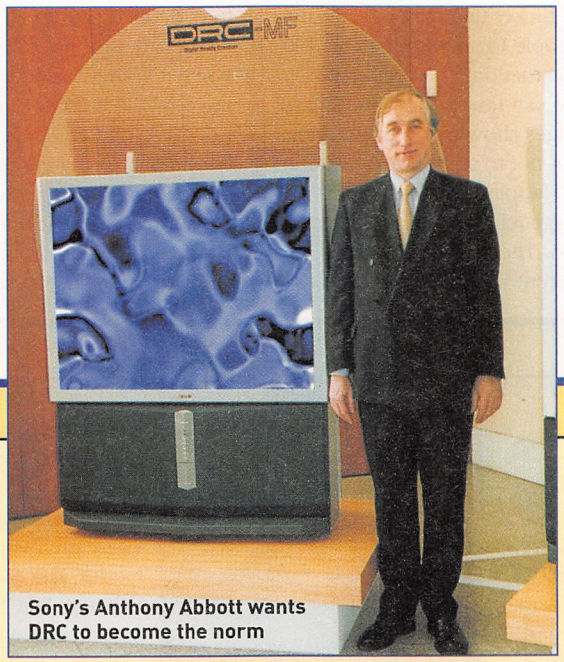
The audio menu is comprehensive. There's a graphic equaliser with five preset and one user-adjustable options, plus a variety of surround sound alternatives. Naturally, there's a test tone to help you balance the surround speakers to suit your room.

After that, the only thing remaining worth mentioning is the range of widescreen options. These include an anamorphic mode, and a Smart mode which blows 4:3 pictures up to fill the 16:9 screen without stretching them unduly.

PERFORMANCE

Let's cut to the chase. Does the 36FS70 deliver Sony's higher-resolution claims? ▶

SONY'S VIEW ON DRC



Sony's Anthony Abbott wants DRC to become the norm

Anthony Abbott, Sony's head of television, Europe, firmly believes that DRC represents a viable alternative to high-definition (HD) TV, which has been adopted as the digital system in the US and Japan. 'The extra bandwidth now available to broadcasters will be used for the development of interactive TV, and the set of the future has to be able to handle rapidly changing fine detail,' says Abbott.

'We need TV sets that can handle a combination of text and moving pictures. This text will change onscreen rapidly, which means the screen must cope with extreme changes in colour, often from black to white. Fine detail will be essential for displaying the internet and graphics,' he adds.

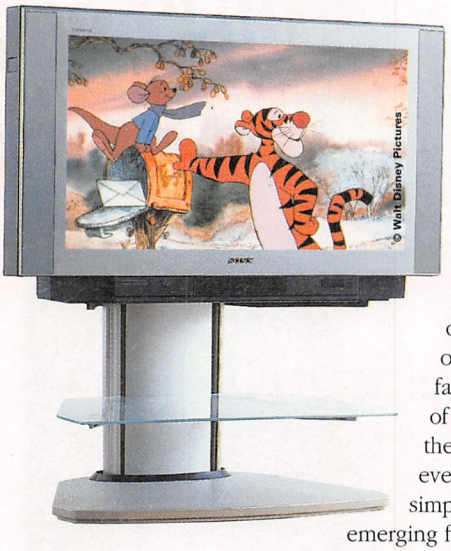
So does Abbott believe that those territories adopting a HD system are going down the wrong road? 'Yes, I do. The future is going to be multi-channel. Video-On-Demand will mean, for example, the BBC's entire archive will be available. We need to develop a navigational tool and TV sets that can handle the detail required. That's why we're working on DRC. Sure, 100Hz was a great step forward in eliminating flicker, but it has problems with motion. DRC recreates the frequency response to change quickly from dark to light.'

Is this technological breakthrough expensive? 'No,' Abbott explains, 'one of the benefits of DRC technology is that it is not a hardware solution but is performed in signal processing, so it's inexpensive.'

Does this mean that DRC will appear on cheaper sets? 'Certainly. We have to start somewhere,' replies Abbott, 'but we want this technology to be available to everyone, not just on high-end products.'

If Abbott gets his way it looks like the future of TV viewing in Europe might not be so bleak after all.

SONY KV-36FS70 Pro-Logic 36in widescreen TV



The pictures immediately appear to be very special indeed. As this is a 36in screen, normally you would expect most broadcast fare to struggle to fill without looking soft or grainy, but this is not the case.

On an analogue broadcast of (ahem) Richard and Judy, the image was bright, clean, practically devoid of interference (except for a little tizzing around bright greens, reds and yellows), and, most revealingly of all, sharp as a button and packed with detail. Behind the guests' couch there's a curious sort of net curtain effect, and the 36FS70 presents every little detail of it immaculately. It's also possible to make out scary amounts of detail on people's faces. With an R2 DVD of *Shakespeare In Love,* the effect is, if anything, even better, with a simply sublime image emerging from the pristine disc pressing.

The DRC-MF processing, it seems, really does make a difference. Superb. DRC50 slightly tops DRC100, though it does leave a minute amount of flicker that may induce some people to go with the DRC100 incarnation. The only gripe we can find is that some sharp edges show traces of ghosting, but not to an annoying extent.

Happily, Sony hasn't forgotten that sound matters, too. The 36FS70 produces decent volumes and levels of bass before cabinet rattle sets in, even when asked to cope with the glorious excesses of the *Face/Off* DVD soundtrack.

The comparatively lightweight rear speakers struggle to keep up, but the soundstage is realistic and natural, with plenty of detail and range as long as you don't expect too much of it. We're not convinced by the pseudo-surround modes, but steer clear of these, don't expect the soundstage to be all that wide and you'll be more than happy.

CONCLUSION

So does 36FS70 live up to the hype? Not quite. Yes, there really does seem more detail, and yes, DRC-MF really does help standard image sources stretch to bigger sizes. But it's not a fully fledged rival to HDTV.

The latter format still wins when it comes to sheer in-your-face brilliance, with not even the excellence of Sony's processing entirely overcoming the limitations of the source material. But with HDTV as far away from the UK as ever, it's fair to say that there's no other technology out there that makes TV pictures look better.

If size matters to you and you've got deep pockets, the 36FS70 is the TV to go for ❐

VERDICT

Gorgeous looks, competent sound and revolutionary DRC-MF technology make this a widescreen winner

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	10/10
SOUND	8/10
FEATURES	9/10
EASE OF USE	7/10
OVERALL RATING	9/10

KEY FEATURES
DRC-MF
Pro-Logic
Multi-PIP options
NTSC playback

WHAT'S GOOD
Picture; sound; build quality; looks

WHAT'S BAD
Joystick remote; price

FEATURES
DRC (Digital Reality Creation) processing; NTSC 3.58/4.43MHz playback; Dolby Pro-Logic; sleep timer; child lock; auto tuning; 13-screen PIP; PAP; teletext sub-page memory store and manual selection; picture rotation; five widescreen modes; AI auto contrast adjust; noise reduction; Smartlink; NexTViewLink

SOCKETS
Front: composite video input; S-video input; stereo audio input; headphone jack
Rear: three Scart sockets (one RGB, two S-video); stereo audio output; two-pin connectors for external Pro-Logic speakers

DIMENSIONS
972(w) x 613.5(h) x 591(d)mm

WEIGHT
90kg

CONTACTS
Sony ☎ 0990 111999
www.sony.co.uk

TEST DATA
Colour resolution: excellent
Geometry: fair. The picture narrows from right to left, and there are patches of bend
Frequency response: excellent, clear to 5.8MHz

HOW DRC WORKS

Sony's Digital Reality Creation-Multifunction (DRC-MF) technology employs a proprietary digital signal-processing algorithm, which creates a picture with four times more detail than was present in the source image. The result is a more accurate and dynamic reproduction of objects and motion, and a picture quality approaching that which until now, could only be achieved with a high-resolution signal.

DRC-MF technology is based on a concept entirely different from the motion adaptive linear interpolation method conventionally used to increase the detail of images. Conventional methods use linear interpolation processing based on filtering theory to increase the sample number of the pictures or to increase the field frequency. DRC digitally maps out a high-resolution signal directly from a standard television signal.

Developed in Japan by Yasuki Tatehira (pictured above), DRC-MF technology is based on Multi Function architecture, which changes the flexible internal structure in order to achieve the desired functions. Multi Function describes the ability to change functions effectively by instructions and implement several functions with a single LSI chip. There are two DRC modes, DRC50 and DRC100. DRC50 (ie 50Hz) employs a unique real-time processor that improves picture resolution by 400 per cent. It creates double the number of scanning lines (1,250 from 625) and doubles the number of horizontal pixels (1,440 from 720) from a standard television signal. Its picture has a 4x increase in resolution with full spatial reality (double pixel numbers vertically and horizontally).

DRC100 (100Hz) employs a field-doubling technology that maintains 625 vertical interlaced scanning lines but doubles the number of horizontal pixels to 1,440. DRC100 offers a flicker-free option for stable images with smooth movement that are much gentler on the eyes. This mode has a picture with high resolution and realistic motion (double field frequency and double horizontal pixel numbers).

seeing stars

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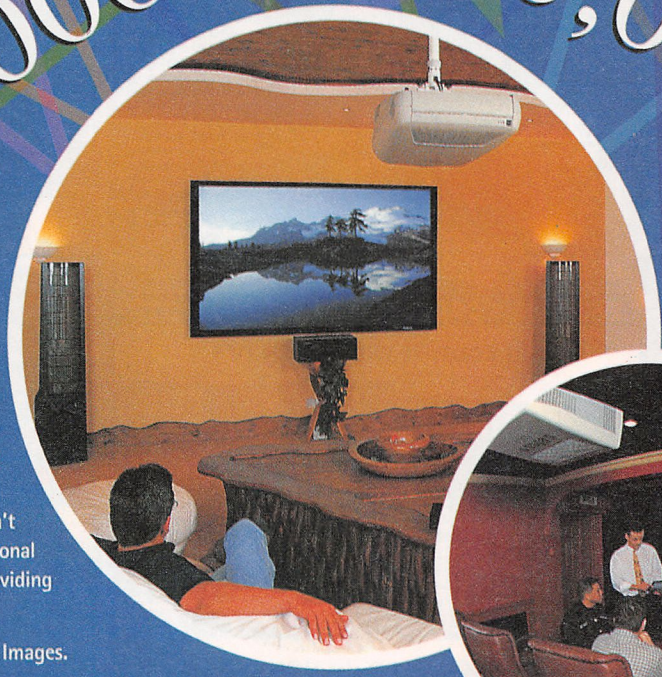

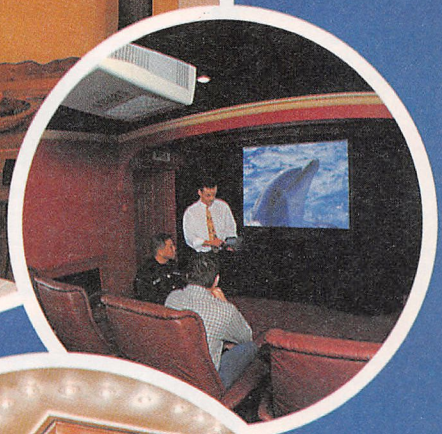

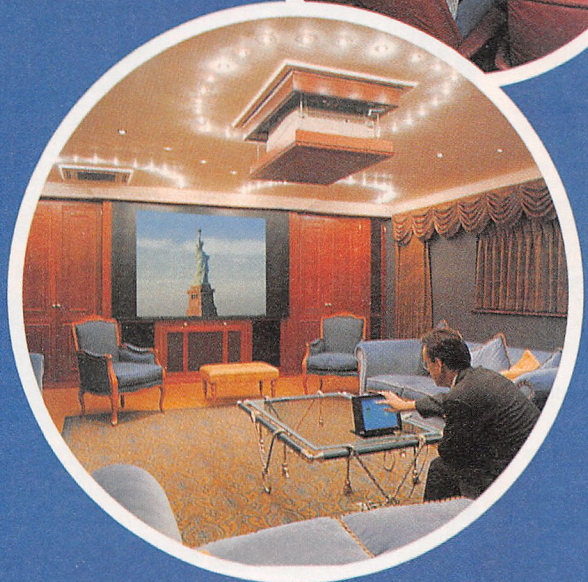

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DS60 as KV-28DX20 plus: • 100HZ digital plus • Dolby prologic surround • Dual drive speakers • Digital Sound /picture / teletext • Supplied with surround speakers • Cabinet inc with 28" optional with 32"

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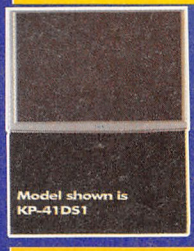

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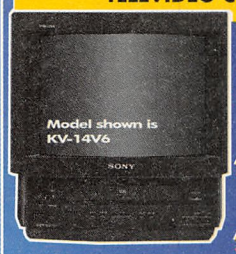
TELEVIDEO COMBINATION UNITS



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As KV-14V5 plus: • Twin tuners so you can record one channel while watching another

KV-21V6 £359
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SLV-SE80 £225
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SLVSE85 as SLVE80 plus:
• Audio dub and smart setup box control

SLV-SF90 £299
• SLVSF90 as SLVSE80 plus NTSC playback and smartfile generator

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56PW8DB £CALL WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000

Features as 40PW8DB plus:
- 56 version and comes with built-in storage facility

Model shown is 56PW8DB

4:3 PROJECTION TV'S

43PJ98B
50PJ98B
61PJ98B

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- Super scene control
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- Front AV sockets
- Super woofer terminal
- Multi-standard
- 500 page mega text
- NTSC video playback
- Rear speakers supplied with 50" & 61"
- Dolby digital surround sound (50"and 61" only)
- Rear speakers supplied with Dolby sets

Model shown is 56PJ98B

DOLBY DIGITAL WIDESCREEN TV'S

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32WD98B
32ZD98B

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- Dolby digital surround sound
- 100HZ tube technology
- Supplied with cabinet & rear speakers
- Digital picture processing
- Nicam digital stereo
- Super woofer
- Optical & Coaxial audio terminal
- 3 scart sockets
- Auto set-up
- Multi-standard (32ZD)
- Super flat-face screen (32ZD)

WHAT VIDEO & TV AWARDS 2000 BEST BUY

Model shown is 32WD98B

NICAM & DOLBY PROLOGIC WIDESCREEN TV'S

28W8DB
32W8DB
28W93B

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- Choice of 28" and 32" widescreen tv's
- Dolby prologic (28W8DB & 32W8DB)
- Nicam stereo sound
- Auto tune
- Fastext
- Supplied with cabinet
- Supplied with rear speakers (28W8/32W8)
- Front AV sockets
- NTSC playback via scart
- Super woofer (28W8/32W8)
- Picture size adjustment
- Super scene control

Model shown is 32W8D8

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3387DB £CALL

- Choice of 29" and 33" 4:3 TV tubes
- Dolby Digital/Dolby prologic and Nicam stereo sound
- Auto tune and fastext
- 3 scart sockets
- Supplied with cabinet and rear speakers

3787DB £CALL

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Model shown is 2987DB

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LIMITED OFFER
ORDER NOW!

V7099 £145
V7298 £159
V8298 £189
V859B ~~£229~~

- 6 head Nicam videos with intelligent longplay
- Video Plus and PDC (video plus deluxe on 859/829/729's)
- NTSC Playback
- 2 Scart sockets
- Satellite Receiver control (V829/V859)
- Editing features including Audio dubbing (V829/V859)
- Multibrand remote including teletext (V859)
- Auto head cleaner
- Rear audio out

PHILIPS

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS

DESIGN LINE TV'S, VCR'S AND DVD'S

32PW9523B
32PW9544B
32PW9534B

These models have the same specifications but differ in colour.
- Superflat Blackline-S picture tube
- 100HZ digital scan
- Nicam stereo with incredible sound
- Crystal clear picture
- Widescreen auto format
- 440 page memory easytext with teletext Dual screen
- Supplied with matching cabinet

SILVER SHADOW
All Colours
£1199
GREEN VR805
SILVER VR805
£239
COOL GREEN
ICE BLUE

- Cool green and silver matching videos
- 4 head long play Nicam vcr
- Videoplus and PDC
- 2 Scart sockets and front AV input
- Infra-red remote control

DVD 956 COOL GREEN DVD £399 NOW IN!

TV/VCR SPECIAL PACKAGE DEAL! - £1399

INTEGRATED DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TV'S

Ten digital terrestrial channels & Teletext are available without subscription on Philips digital terrestrial products.

28DW6734C £679
32DW6834C £999

- Choice of 28" & 32" Blackline-S, Superflat picture tube
- Side slot for pay per view card
- DVB & MHEG compliant
- Dolby prologic Surround sound
- Wireless FM rear speakers supplied (32DW6834C ONLY)
- 62 Watts power with 5 speakers and 2 rear
- Fastext
- Viewing modes,4:3/14:9/16:9/ movie expand/ subtitle zoom/super zoom/widescreen
- Supplied with cabinet

Prices you pay when you subscribe to any ON Digital viewing package for at least 1 year. Equivalent value saving of £150

REAL FLAT WIDESCREEN TV'S

32PW9525 £CALL
36PW9525 £CALL

- Choice of 32" & 36" Real Flat screen
- 100Hz Digital Scan,Crystal Clear picture
- Dolby 3D Surround Wireless (optional speakers)
- Easy Text with 1200 page programme
- Full dual screen (picture in picture or picture & text)
- Inc. cabinet

"HI-GLOSS" WIDESCREEN NICAM TV'S & VCR's SILVER & BLUE GLOSS

Model shown is 28PW9545C

28PW9545C £1049
32PW9545C £1249
28PW9535C £1049
32PW9535C £1249

- Superflat Blackline-S picture tube
- Digital crystal clear picture with 100HZ scan
- Widescreen modes for all formats
- Dolby 3D-surround sound.

Can be upgraded to full dolby prologic with optional rear speakers
- Nicam sound with 60 Watts output
- Teletext Dual screen with 400 fastext memory
- 3 scart sockets
- supplied with matching cabinet

VR708 £249
- Matching silver gloss vcr
- 4 head nicam with long play
- Videoplus and PDC
- 2 scart-sockets and front AV input

HI GLOSS 28" TV/VCR PACKAGE FOR £1199! 32" FOR £1399!

BLACKLINE-S WIDESCREEN TV'S

24PW6324 £359
28PW6324 £479
32PW6324 £699

- Choice of 24", 28" & 32" tubes
- Nicam stereo with incredible sound
- Widescreen modes; 4:3/14:9/16:9 movie expand, super and subtitle zoom
- Fastext
- Supplied with or without cabinet Please specify

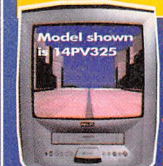
28PW6332 £549
32PW6332 £729

- 28" & 32" version of above sets but with Dolby prologic sound
- Supplied with 2 rear speakers
- 5-Band graphic equaliser.

28PW9615 £CALL 32PW9615 £CALL

- Choice of 28" & 32"
- Superflat picture tube Digital Crystal Clear Inc. 100HZ digital scan dynamic contrast & natural motion
- Viewing modes; 4:3, movie expand, 14:9 & 16:9, subtitle zoom &widescreen
- Auto fit, Auto format
- 4 scart sockets
- Dolby digital 5.1 audio
- 6 speakers Inc. subwoofer
- Supplied with 2 wireless FM rear speakers and cabinet

TELEVISION AND VIDEO COMBINATION UNITS



Model shown is 14PV325

14PV162 £179 - Two head, lp vcr, video+,front AV
14PV210 £199 - As above + pdc, text, smart dock
14PV325 £189 - As above + 2 tuner, digital picture
14PV340 £229 - As 210 + fm radio, dock, alarm
28PV688 £399 - 21", 4Head, V+, pdc, 2 tuners

SPECIAL OFFER

VHS & SVHS NICAM, LONGPLAY VIDEO RECORDERS

VR807 £159 - 6 Head, Video+, PDC Plus, and Play Remote
VR868 £229 - 4 Head, Video+, PDC, Tape manager, Jog shuttle
VR1000 £259 - SVHS, Video+, PDC, Front AV, Editing, Smart picture, Digital studio picture control, 2 scarts, Daddi Jog & Shuttle

Hi SPEK electronics

0% APR

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS* SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

EXTENDED GUARANTEES

We have joined forces with Pinnacle Insurance Plc, who are specialists in this field, to bring you a highly competitive and fully comprehensive extended guarantee option. This guarantee offers absolute peace of mind against breakdown or accidental damage.

All items come with a one years manufacturers guarantee, which covers parts and labour. Investing in one of our extended guarantees will mean you will receive the following additional benefits immediately:

- Total protection against mechanical or electrical breakdown for 3 or 5 years (that's additional cover for 2 or 4 years).
- Total protection against accidental damage from day one.
- Absolutely no bills to pay.
- Nationwide collection and delivery service for faulty products (mainland only). From day one.
- New for old replacement if beyond economical repair. From day one.
- Guaranteed repair times. From day one.
- Up to £5000 cover value.

In a recent study we compared the cost of a guarantee with one of the UK's largest "cheap" superstores and the findings are published below; this study compares the cost of a 3 and 5 year guarantee on a television costing £650. (28" widescreen TV).

	3 Year	5 Year
Well known superstore	£119	£219
Hi-Spek	£69	£119

The cost of a 3 & 5 year guarantee on a DVD Costing:

	3 Year	5 Year
DVD up to £350	£65	£129
DVD over £350	£79	£149

The cost of a 3 and 5 year guarantee on a camcorder costing £650

	3 Year	5 Year
Well known superstore	£129-£145	£209-£259
Hi-Spek	£99	£179

HI-SPEK ARE UP TO 45% CHEAPER!

HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS
FINCHLEY, LONDON
344 - 346 Regents Park Rd,
Finchley Central, London N3 2LJ
TEL : 0208 349 1166
OPEN 9AM TO 6PM MONDAY - SATURDAY
Open Sunday 11am - 4pm
Free parking available opposite the store and in surrounding roads

HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS
BRENTWOOD, ESSEX
111 High Street Brentwood, Essex
CM14 4RX
TEL : 01277 226 303
OPEN 9AM TO 6PM MONDAY - SATURDAY
Situated 5 mins from junction 28 on the M25, public car park at the rear

MAIL ORDER 01727 791133

Hi SPEK electronics

0% APR

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS* SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS

FINANCE DETAILS

6-9 Month Interest Free Option

Available when purchased with our highly competitive extended guarantees. **Minimum purchase is £200** and is available to mail order customers as well as callers to our stores, please see details and example below:

Cash Price £649, £65 deposit, balance £584, commence monthly payment of £19.31 for 8 months then pay £429.52 on 9th payment 0% APR Interest Free. Or continue to pay £19.31 for a further 40 months, total payment £991.88 APR 27.9%

LOW COST FINANCE

Hi-Spek are able to offer a low cost finance deal to customers who require a longer payment period. Applies to all products in store and mail order, (minimum purchase price £200). pay over 12, 24 and 36 months with an APR of only 21.9% (this compares with an APR of over 30% in some so called 'Low Price' major high street multiples). Please see details and example below.

Cash Price £5000, £500 deposit, balance £4500, 36 payments of £167.26. Total payment £6521.36 (interest paid £1521.36) 21.9% APR.

36 MONTHS INTEREST FREE

Available on marked items, Hi-Spek offer up to 36 months interest free. **Minimum purchase is £200** & is available to mail order customers as well as callers to our stores, please see details & example below.

Cash Price £500, £50 deposit, balance £450, commence monthly payment of £37.50 for 12 months, total payment £500 0% APR Interest Free.

Choose from any of the following periods according to the amount you wish to spend, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, & 36 MTHS:

£200-£500	UP TO 12 MTHS	£501-£1000	UP TO 18 MTHS
£1001-£1500	UP TO 24 MTHS	£1501-£2000	UP TO 30 MTHS
OVER £2000	UP TO 36 MTHS		

FINANCE in Store

Should be 21 or over, in full time employment (part-time over 16 hours) Identification in the form of a full drivers license or a recent utility bill, together with any Credit/Switch card is required. Up to £5000 credit can be arranged on the spot.

FINANCE by mail order

From the comfort of your home call 01727 791133. To qualify, the same conditions as above apply. Please call with your bank details and we will send you a credit form to sign. Your goods will be dispatched as soon as we receive the form back signed. It's that simple! Your deposit can be paid by Credit Card, Switch or Delta Card. Cheques or Postal orders payable to Hi-Spek.

Hi Spek are licensed credit brokers. Credit facility subject to status. Written details on request.

CAMCORDER BARGAINS

JVC	GCS1	DIGITAL STILL	£149
JVC	GRDVF1	DV	£399
JVC	GRDVL20	DV	£449
JVC	GRDVL9000	DV	£699
JVC	GRDVL9500	DV	£799
JVC	GRDVL9600	DV	£999
JVC	GRAX280	VHSC	£229
JVC	GRFX10	VHSC	£259
JVC	GRFXM15	VHSC	£279
JVC	GRFXM65	VHSC	£349
PANASONIC	NVDS1	DV	£599
PANASONIC	NVEX1	DV	£699
PANASONIC	NVVX44	VHSC/LCD	£349
PANASONIC	NVDS77	DV	£649
SONY	CCDTR750	HI8	£249
SONY	CCDTRV35	8MM/LCD	£349
SONY	CCDTRV95	HI8/LCD	£599
SONY	DCRTRV7	DV	£499
SONY	DMMV10	DV	£499

All bargains listed here are brand new unless otherwise stated by adding "ED" after the model no. which means they may have been on display. All are boxed and include all instructions & standard manufacturers accessories. All goods come with a comprehensive one years warranty from Hi-Spek and manufacturer for parts and labour. BUY WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

SONY

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS

8MM & Hi8 CAMCORDERS

CCDTR515

CCDTRA27 £339
CCDTR515 £319

CCDTR913

CCDTR713 £339
CCDTR913 £399

TRV27 • Video 8 XR • 80 x digital zoom • Night shot • TBC, S-DNR • Manual focus dial / fader • TR515 • Video Hi8 • 72 x digital zoom • Built-in light • Night shot • digital picture effects • Manual focus /fader • TR713 • As 515 plus • Steady shot • Laser Link • DNR & ORC • TR913 – as 713 plus • Super night shot • HI FI stereo • Prog AE modes • Video Hi8 XR • Memory digital effects • 80 x digital zoom • HI FI stereo • Programme AE modes

8MM & Hi8 CAMCORDERS WITH LCD SCREENS

CCDTRV27

CCDTRV27 £359
CCDTRV36 £399

CCDTRV36

CCDTRV46 £479
CCDTRV66 £519

TRV27 • Video 8 x R • 72 x digital zoom • 2.5" fold out LCD screen and speaker • Night shot • Manual focus/fader • Tilter • Digital picture effect • Prog AE modes • DNR & ORC • 16:9 wide mode remote control • TRV36 – as TRV27 plus • Video Hi8 • Built-in video light • TRV46 – as TRV36 plus • Steady shot • Laser Link • TRV66 – as TRV46 plus • Video Hi8 XR • Super night shot • Photo mode • 80 x digital zoom • High stereo • TBC

DIGITAL 8 HANDYCAM CAMCORDERS

DCRTRV7000

DCRTRV7000 £479
DCRTRV120 £599

DCRTRV120

DCRTRV310 £679
DCRTRV510 £799

DCRTRV310

TRV7000 • Digital 8 recording • super steady shot • 80 x digital, 20 x optical zoom • Colour view finder • Super night shot 'o' lux • Digital effects and photo mode • iLINK (DV out) • Laser link • PCM stereo • Intelligent accuracy stora •16:9 wide mode • TRV120 – as TRV7000 plus • 2.5" fold out LCD screen & speaker • Super Laser Link • 100 x digital zoom (25 x optical zoom) • TRV310 – as TRV7000 plus • Fold out 3.5" LCD screen & speaker • Time code & data • TRV510 – as TRV310 plus • DSC functions: Built-in 2Mb flash memory, PC application accessory supplied (RS232C cable & picture gear software) • Fold out 4" LCD screen & speaker • Colour view finer

MINI DV DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

DCRPC100

DCR-PC2 £799
DCR-PC3 £1029
DCR-PC100 £CALL

DCRTRV8E

DCR-TRV8E £779
DCR-TRV10E £925
DCR-TRV900E £1449

PC2 – • 2.5" LCD monitor and speakers • Super steady shot • Carl Zeiss lens • Night shot • 40 x digital zoom • DV synchro edit • Prog AE modes • PCM stereo • Audio dub • iLINK (DV out) • Phone mode

PC3 – • As PC2 plus • Memory stick slot built-in (DSC functions) PC100 – As PC3 plus • 1070k mega pixel CCD • iLINK (DV in & out) • Analogue video in & out • XGA quality still pictures • Luxury camcorder of the year

DCR-TRV890E

£1049

LIMITED OFFER!

DCRVX1000E

£1799

LIMITED OFFER!

DIGITAL STILL CAMERA

DSC-F55 £CALL

• 2 million pixels CCD • Carl Zeiss lens • Memory stick format • 2" colour LCD display • MPEG movie mode • Voice memo mode • Auto MACRO • RS232C cable supplied • Video out terminal • Picture gear software supplied • Intelligent flash • Picture effect

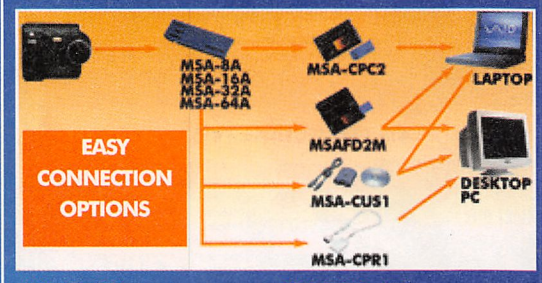
DSC-F505 £599

• Compact high quality • 2 million pixel CCD • 5 x optical zoom • Carl Zeiss lens • Memory stick • Rotating lens • 16 x 1200 (VXGA) 1024 x 768 (XGA) 640 x 480 (VGA) • USB terminal & serial CR5232C terminal) • 2" LCD • Video out terminal • Intelligent flash • Picture scan software

MEMORY STICK

MEMORY STICK MEMORY STICK MEMORY STICK

A UNIVERSAL MEDIA FOR A UNIVERSE OF APPLICATIONS. Memory stick is much more than a new way to record media! It's a new way to share and exchange the digital content of your lifestyle without barriers. Weighing 4 grams and no longer than a stick of gum, Memory stick is sturdy, it's versatile, it's smaller, and stores significantly more data than any other personal data format – currently available. With capacities of up to 64 Mb of data! ready for business, industrial, professional and of course, personal use. Memory stick will also be supported with the entire universe of Sony technology. We have already linked several for our camcorders to our digital printer, our VAIO laptops and to an innovative digital photo frame. Memory stick is a practical affordable reality with a galactic future of user-friendly options.



MSA-8A – £25
• 4 MB Memory Stick • Compact & lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm • Reliable 10 pin connector • Lock function • Flash Ram technology

MSA-8A – £39
• 8 MB Memory Stick™ • Compact and lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm) • Reliable 10-pin connector • Lock function • Flash RAM technology

MSA-16A – £49
• 16MB Memory Stick™ • Compact and lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm) • Reliable 10-pin connector • Lock function • Flash RAM technology

MSA-32A – £79
• 32Mb memory stick • Compact lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm) • Reliable 10-pin connector • Lock function • Flash RAM technology • VA10 World Connectivity

MSA-64A – £129
• 64Mb memory stick • Compact and lightweight (4g, 21.5 x 50 x 2.8mm) • Reliable 10-pin connector • Lock function • Flash RAM technology • VA10 World Connectivity

MSA-CFDIA – £69
• Floppy disc adaptor • Simple operation • 240Kbps (read) • Driver software supplied • Windows 95/98 compatible

MSA-CPDIB – £75
• Floppy disc adaptor • Simple operation • 240Kbps (read) • Driver software supplied • Windows 95/98/NT and Mac OS read compatible

MSA-CPC2 – £59
PC card adaptor • High speed transfer (6.4 Mbps) • Driver built-in • Compatible with Windows 95/98/CE, Mac OS (system 7.5+)

MSA-CPR1 – £69
Parallel port adaptor • High speed transfer (4.64 Mbps) • Requires PC-card adaptor (MSAC-PC1/2) for memory stick connection • Compatible with Windows 95/98/NT • Power source taken from keyboard (adaptor supplied)

MSACFD2M – £69
Floppy disk adaptor • Simple operation ideal for desktop PC users • Driver software supplied • Windows 95/98/NT and MAC OS read compatible • Digital Mavica compatible

MSA-CUS1 – £25
Memory stick USB adaptor • For Windows Macintosh (Imac, 93) • Plug and play • Supplied with driver software

EDITING • PRINTING • Hi8 & DIGITAL VIDEO WALKMANS

GVA500R

GVD300 £779
GVD900 £1059
GVA500 £579

• DV video walkman • DV In/out terminal • Analogue In/out terminal • PCM stereo • 5.5 LCD monitor (GVD900)

• Hi8 video walkman deck • 4" fold out screen • NTSC playback • HI FI socket

DDP-MS300R

DNR1000 £1799

• Near to broadcast pic quality • PCM digital sound • No picture degradation via digital connection • Audio dub • Insert edit • 10 prog assemble edit • Extended data code • LANC socket

FWP1 £279
DPP-MS300R £299

• Digital video printer • Video input for video/camcorder • Floppy drive for printing from MAVICA • Hi-Res picture quality • Tilter • Digital video printer (S300) • PC VIA parallel port connection

EDITING & Hi8 VCR'S

EVC2000

EVC400 £315
EVC2000 £499

• Hi8 Video Recorder • AFM Hifi Stereo • Flying Erase head • Remote control • Scart/Euro connector EVC2000 same as EVC400 Plus Hi8 Editing facilities • RCTC (Time Code) Recognition • Jog Shuttle • AV Insert • Lanc & S-Video Input

SLVT2000

SLVT2000 £529

• 4 Head Nicam Hifi Stereo VHS VCR • Combination Long Play VHS/HI8 Double Deck • HI 8 Flying Erase Head • Front AV Input • Videoplus & PDC

MAIL ORDER 01727 791133

JVC

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS

DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER

DF300 - 300 Min Tape
DF420 - 420 Min Tape

NOW IN STOCK!!

WORLD'S FIRST 21 hours of digital recording!

HM-DR10000 £CALL

- D-VHS format with MPEG2 codes for hi-quality images & sound
- DV-Digital to digital recording
- Long time digital recording with LS3 mode - up to 21hrs per cassette
- Video navigation system
- J-terminal & control LANC

WORLD'S FIRST Mini DV/SVHS Edit Deck!

HR-DVS1 £949

- DV Digital format with PCM digital Audio
- Super VHS & HI FI VHS stereo
- "easy edit" with random assemble edit
- One touch dubbing (both ways)
- SVHS-VHS insert editing with flying erase heads
- DV input (output(ieee1394))

SVHS & NICAM VIDEO RECORDERS

HR-S8800 £199

- HI-Res SVHS Nicam/A2 video deck
- Other features as HRJ660 except no front AV inputs.

HR-S8600 £319
HM-S9600 £419
HRJ670 £169

HR-S7600 £235

As HR56600 plus:
- Digital wide TBC (time base convector)
- Precision 3D colour circuit
- Editing feature with front AV inputs.

- HI-res SVHS picture
- HIFI VHS + nicam stereo sound
- NTSC playback
- Videoplus & PD
- Auto setup
- Widescreen reality & P/B

HR57600 includes above plus ultimate picture quality + 2MB frame memory

HR58600 as HR57600 plus time log and scan with dynamic drum systems & prosiyle editing features

HR59600 as HR58600 plus nicam sound with high grade audio components are overall better sound quality

MINI DV DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

GRDVL100

GR-DVL100 SALE £549
GR-DVL107 SALE £599
GR-DVL300 SALE £689
GRDVX4 SALE £779
GRDVX7 SALE £999
GRDVL9200 SALE £879
GRDVL9700 SALE £1029
GRDVL9800 SALE £1119

- Mini DV format & PCM digital audio
- DV out & RS232C out
- 2.5" LCD monitor
- Picture stabiliser
- 100 x digital zoom
- Optional software package for PC
- DV input/output (GRDVL107 /GRDVL9700 & 9800)
- 3.5" LCD monitor (GRDVL300/GRDVL9200/9700 & 9800)
- Built-in autoflash (GRDVX4/GRDVX7/GRDVL9200/9700 & 9800)
- JLIP video capture, picture navigator, JLIP video producer & 3 presto software provided(GRDVX4/X7/GRDVL 9200/9700 & 9800)
- Full metal body (GRDVX4/X7)
- Pro snapshots on multi media card (GRDVX7/9700 &9800)
- Analogue input/output (GRDVL9700/9800)
- 200 x super digital zoom with super wide (GRDVL9700/9800)

GRDVX4

GRDVL9200

VHS-C CAMCORDER

GRFXM16

GR-FX11 £269 **GR-FXM16 £319**

- VHS-C easyvue format
- 50x digital zoom
- Picture stabiliser
- Super lo lux
- Wide angle
- Digital wipes and fader
- Longplay
- J-terminal for computer connectivity
- Manual acute balance
- 2.5" LCD monitor

Canon

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS

MINI DV DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

DM-XM1 £CALL

- World's first camcorder fitted with a Flourite lens
- 20x optical zoom
- DV terminal

DM-MV20 DM-MV20i £CALL

Mini DV
- Ultra compact vertical design
- 12 x optical & 48x digital zoom
- Optical image stabiliser
- Flip out 2.5" colour LCD screen
- PCM digital stereo recording
- IEEE 1394 compatible
- Progressive scan CCD for digital stills

DM-MV20i has DV input/output

DM-XL1 £CALL

- Semi Professional Mini DV camcorder
- 3CCDs
- Interchangeable lenses
- c/w 16x zoom lens
- Super range optical image stabiliser
- Hi-Res colour viewfinder
- DV In/Out terminal
- Full manual over-rides

Panasonic

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS

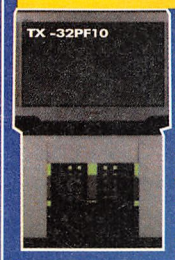
DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL INTEGRATED WIDESCREEN TV'S

TX -28DT2

TX-28DT2 £799 **TX-32DT2 £1129**

- Choice of 28" & 32" models
- Features similar to TX28PK1 plus:
- Integrated digital terrestrial tuner
- DVB tuner/ teletext/subtitles
- MHEG
- S/DSM-CC
- EPG-electronic programme guide
- External modem supplied
- Supplied with cabinet

TAU WIDESCREEN NICAM TV'S



TX -32PF10

TX-28PK1 £639
TX-32PK1 £989
TX-28PK10 £869
TX-32PF10 £1199
TX-36PF10 £CALL

- Choice of 28, 32 and 36" Quintrix F superflat tube
- Nicam digital stereo
- Fastext
- Automatic aspect ratio selection
- Childlock
- Colour balance adjustment
- Easy programme access
- 100Hz digital scan (TX28PK10, TX32PF10 + TX36PF10)
- Digital comb filter
- New AFB Dome sound and speaker system
- Picture in picture (1 tuner) (TX32PF10 + TX36PF10)
- Digital management systems
- All models include cabinet

TAU WIDESCREEN & 4:3 DOLBY PROLOGIC TV'S

TX -28PK2

TX28PK2 £719
TX32PK2 £1039
TX33AIC10 £CALL

- Choice of 28" & 32" widescreen and 33" 4:3
- Quintrix F flatface screen
- Dolby prologic surround sound. All tv's come with rear speakers and cabinet which houses centre speakers
- Nicam digital stereo sound
- AFB dome sound system
- Fastext & nicam stereo sound
- 100Hz digital scan (TX33AIC10)

QUINTRIX WIDESCREEN TV'S

TX W32R4DPC

TXW28R4G £499
TXW28R4DPC £579
TXW32R4DPC £799
TXW36D3DPC £1599

- Choice of 28 & 32" widescreen Quintrix screen
- Nicam digital stereo & fastext
- Dolby prologic (TXW36D3DPC & TXW28R4DPC)
- Supplied with cabinet & rear speakers
- Megatext facility
- 100Hz digital scan
- 3 scart sockets
- Glink & ID owner (TXW36D3DPC)
- Hexagone dome sound system
- Super 3D bass subwoofer

TAU WIDESCREEN PROJECTION TV

TX47PT1 £2399

- Choice of 42" & 37" plasma screens
- Super thin and lightweight construction
- Multimedia applications
- Multi system compatible NTSC/PAL/SECAM
- Pedestal stand supplied

MINI DV DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

NVDX110

VWDTA5E
VWDTA1E £CALL
DIGITAL CAMERA SOFTWARE

NVDS11 £609
NVDS33 £749
NVDS99 £899
NVEX1 £749
NVSX110 £1149

NVDS11 - Mini DV camcorder
- PCM stereo sound
- Digital photo shot
- LP recording mode
- X 400 digital zoom
- Digital effects
- Super Image stabiliser
- 2.5" smart turn LCD monitor
- Remote control
- DV out (iLINK Ieee1394) + RS232C for stills.

NVDS33 - As NVDS11 plus/except
- X100 digital zoom
- Programme photo shot
- Super compact mechanism.

NVDS99 - As NVDS33 plus
- Optical enlarge stabiliser
- Continuous photo shot
- 3.8" LCD monitor
- 120 x Digital zoom
- Multi screen picture & picture.

NVEX1
- Award winning 3 chip (3CCD) camcorder
- DV In/out terminal
- Excellent build quality
- Broadcast quality picture & sounds

MINI DV CAMCORDER WITH SD CARD BUILT-IN

NV-DS55 £1049

This model also available without SC card model NVDS35 - £949

- x15 Optical zoom (x150 digital)
- Wide angle 2.5" LCD
- Progressive Photoshot
- Super Image stabiliser
- Playback Digital effects
- Playback digital zoom
- 0.5 sec jet zoom
- Picture in picture/multi-screen
- DV out
- Digital still picture out (RS 32C)
- Multi-media card adaptability (4MB MMC supplied)

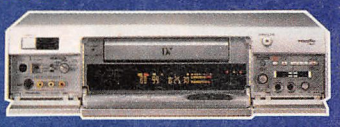
Hi SPEK electronics

0% APR

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS* SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

FULL SIZE DV EDIT DECK

NV-DV10000 £1449



Mini DV Digital Video Cassette

- High quality DV pictures
- Horizontal resolution over 500 lines
- Signal to noise ratio over 54dB
- DV editing
- Ilink terminal
- High quality digital PCM (12/16bit) stereo sound
- High quality PCM stereo sound editing
- Wireless editing controller
- High precision response DVC-PRO mechanism
- Six-motor system for extra quick response and outstanding tape protection
- Versatile editing terminals
- 5-pin editing terminal
- SVHS Edit Deck Digital still picture terminal
- SVHS Edit Deck
- Programme editing
- Audio Mixing
- One touch editing
- Tuner and timer
- LP mode recording
- "Compatible Structure" and tray loading

PANASONIC NICAM VCR'S

BRAND NEW MODELS NOW IN!

NV-FJ610B £199
NV-FJ610BS £199
NV-FJ615BS £229
NV-HD675 £259
NV-HD685 £289

FJ610 - Nicam stereo with auto set-up, PDC & Video plus
- Simple easy guide on screen display
- 60 sec jet rewind (E180)
- NTSC playback on pal TV
- Security owner ID
- Auto SP/LP change
- Childlock
- 2 scart sockets
- VISS intro jet scan
- This model is available in black or silver.

FJ615 - As 610 plus
- Digital set top box control
- Front Av inputs and audio dub
- Quasi SVHS playback
- Q-Link.

HD675 - As FJ615 plus
- subtitle record and playback
- HI FI record level.

HD685 - As HD675 plus
- Editing features including insert edit
- 5 pin edit terminal

PANASONIC SVHS VCR'S

Model shown HS850

NV-HS900 £379
NV-HS850 £479
NV-HS650 £379

HS900 - Nicam stereo with auto set-up, PDC & Video plus
- NTSC playback on pal TV
- Security owner ID
- 2 scart sockets
- HI FI record level control
- Editing features including insert edit.

HS850 - As HS900 plus
- Digital time base corrector
- Digital noise reduction
- Digital Y/C separation
- Jog & shuttle on remote
- Analogue satellite control

HS650 - As HD685 plus
- Super VHS picture quality

Hi SPEK electronics

0% APR

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS* SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

SHARP VIDEO PROJECTOR'S

XVZ1E £2145 BEST BUY
XVZW60E £2999 BEST BUY
XVC20E £1029
XVC1E £619 Home Cinema Choice BEST BUY

VIDEO BARGAINS

FERGUSON		
FV98HUX (ED)	NICAM	£149
HITACHI		
VTFX770	NICAM	£169
JVC		
HRJ235 (ED)	LP	£99
HRJ755	NICAM	£145
HRDD 845 (ED)	NICAM	£179
HRS9400 (ED)	SVHS	£249
LG		
C211	LP	£69
MITSUBISHI		
HS561(ED)	NICAM	£129
PANASONIC		
AG4700 (ED)	SVHS PRO	£495
NVHD600 (ED)	NICAM	£149
NVSD10AM (ED)	MULTI SYSTEM	£249
NVSD230	LP	£109
NVSD410	4H/LP	£129
NVSD440	4H/LP	£149
PHILIPS		
DV105	LP	£89
VR165	LP	£99
VR200	LP	£199
VR285	LP	£99
VR668 (ED)	NICAM	£149
VR676	NICAM	£149
VR685 (ED)	NICAM	£149
VR800	NICAM	£179
SANYO		
VHR797	NICAM	£129
SONY		
SLVE210 (ED)	LP	£129
SLVE295	LP	£119
SLVE410	4H/LP	£149
SLVE530	4H/LP	£149
SLVE700	NICAM	£179
SLVE820	NICAM	£179
SLVE850	NICAM	£199
SLVSE20	LP	£135
SLVSE30	LP	£159
TOSHIBA		
V226 (ED)	LP	£95
V228	LP	£95
V255 (ED)	LP	£99
V426	4H/LP	£115
V728	NICAM	£139
V857 (ED)	NICAM	£149

All bargains listed here are brand new unless otherwise stated by adding "ED" after the model no. which means that may have been on display. All are boxed and include all instructions & standard manufacturers accessories. All goods come with a comprehensive one years warranty from Hi-Spek and manufacturer for parts and labour. BUY WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

YAMAHA

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS

YAMAHA DIGITAL HOME THEATRE AMPLIFIER

DXP-XA1
Features : Enhanced cinema DSP • Dolby digital/matri x 6.1 and DTS • Digital surround ES capabilities • "Silent cinema" headphone play • Powerful 8-channel amplifier and Yamaha's new digital top art concept

DOLBY DIGITAL · ToP-ART™

£1999 0% APR up to 36 months, 10% Deposit

DSPA1 Dolby digital/DTS Award Winning Amplifier
Features • 42 surround sound programme with 21 cinema DSP progs • Yamaha original Dolby Digital LSI + DSPLS1 • Dolby digital surround recorders • 7-channel high power output 110w x 5 (main, centre + rear effects channel) 2 x 35 (front effects channels) • Macro command learning capable remote control
SAVE UP TO £750 ON RRP NOW ONLY £949

DSPA2 Dolby digital/DTS Award Winning Amplifier
Features • 36 surround programme with 19 CINEMA DSP + 14 HI FI DSP • Yamaha's newest LS1 • Incorporates Dolby digital, DTS decoders and DSP processing circuits • 7 channel high power output 110w x 5 (main, centre + rear effects) 2 x 25 (front effects channels learning) • Macro capable + remote control
SAVE UP TO £370 ON RRP NOW ONLY £629

RXV795aRDS
Digital Home Cinema receiver with RDS
SAVE UP TO £200 ON RRP NOW ONLY £399

DSPA595a
Digital Home Cinema amplifier
£349 0% APR up to 24 Months, 10% Deposit

RXV595aRDS
Digital Home Cinema receiver with RDS
SAVE UP TO £70 ON RRP NOW ONLY £329

RXV395aRDS
Digital Home Cinema receiver with RDS
SAVE UP TO £80 ON RRP NOW ONLY £169

YAMAHA SUBWOOFERS & EFFECTS SPEAKERS

YSTSW45 £99
Subwoofer
70 Watts output (5 OHM)

YSTSW60 £219
Subwoofer
150 Watts output (5 OHM)

YSTSW90 £139
Subwoofer
100 Watts output (5 OHM)

YSTSW300 £279
Subwoofer
185 Watts output (5 OHM)

NSC103 £39
Centre Speakers

NSP103 £79
Effects Speakers
Centre + 2 Rear Speakers

NSC150 £79
Centre Speaker

NSE105 £79
Rear Effects Speakers

NSC300 £199
Centre Speaker
0% APR up to 24 Months, 10% Deposit

REL SUBWOOFERS

Q BASS 100E £495
Black Grittex - 0% APR UP TO 18 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

Q BASS200E £600
Black Grittex - 0% APR UP TO 24 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

STRATA III £600
Black Grittex - 0% APR UP TO 24 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

STORM £695
Black Grittex - 0% APR UP TO 24 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

STENTOR II £1800
Black Ash Veneer - 0% APR UP TO 30 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

STORM III Rel Stadium £800
Black Grittex - 0% APR UP TO 24 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

Q BASS 100E

STADIUM II £995
Black Ash Veneer - 0% APR UP TO 24 MONTHS, 10% DEPOSIT

MAIN AUTHORISED DEALERS FOR DENON

AVCA1D
Top End AC3/DT3 + THX Ultra Receiver
CALL NOW FOR THE UK'S LOWEST PRICE!!

AVR1800
Digital Home Cinema Receiver
0% APR
£449 0% APR up to 24 Months, 10% Deposit

AVR2800
Digital Home Cinema Receiver
0% APR
£599 0% APR up to 24 Months, 10% Deposit

AVR3300
Award winning DTS/AC3 Digital Home Cinema Receiver, 0% APR
£799 0% APR up to 24 Months, 10% Deposit

AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR MISSION

CINEMA 6 PACK

CINEMA 1 PACKAGE
Comprising: 700 FRONT, 70C1 CENTRE & 70 REAR
£299 0% APR up to 24months, 10% Deposit

CINEMA 6 PACK
Comprising: 70 x 5 FRONT/REAR & CENTRE 70ASE ACTIVE SUB
£399 0% APR up to 24months, 10% Deposit

CINEMA 7 PACKAGE
Comprising: 773E FRONT, 77DS CENTRE & 77C1 REAR
£799 0% APR up to 24months, 10% Deposit

700 Series Home Cinema			70br, Wall Bracket	0% APR*	£19
70C1, Centre	0% APR*	£99	**77 Series**		
70C2, Centre	0% APR*	£149	771e	0% APR	£199
70D5, Rear	0% APR	£199	772	0% APR	£249
7AS1, Subwoofer	0% APR	£299	773e	0% APR	£399
7AS2, Subwoofer	0% APR	£399	774	0% APR	£499
70, Compact Speaker	0% APR*	£99	775e	0% APR	£799
			77c1	0% APR	£199
			77ds	0% APR	£199

AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR B&W

DM601 S2 - Stands Optional £199 0% APR up to 24months, 10% Deposit

600 Series 2			DS6	0% APR	£399
DM601 S2	0% APR	£199	**Active Subwoofers**		
DM602 S2	0% APR	£299	ASW500	0% APR	£349
DM603 S2	0% APR	£549	ASW1000	0% APR	£499
DM604 S2	0% APR	£849	ASW2000	0% APR	£799
DM605 S2	0% APR	£1395	ASW3000	0% APR	£999
CC6 S2	0% APR	£199	ASW4000	0% APR	£1999
LCR6 s2	0% APR	£349			

AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR KEF

Cresta Series			Model 60 S Surround	0% APR	£199
Cresta 1	0% APR*	£99	Model 34 DS Dipole	0% APR	£699
Cresta 2	0% APR*	£149	Model 80C Centre	0% APR*	£129
Cresta 3	0% APR	£249	Model Q95C Centre	0% APR	£199
Cresta Centre	0% APR*	£99	Model 100C Centre	0% APR	£359
Q Series			Model 200C Centre	0% APR	£699
Q15	0% APR	£159	Model 20B Subwoofer	0% APR	£349
Q35	0% APR	£279	Model 30B Subwoofer	0% APR	£499
Q55	0% APR	£399	Model 45B Subwoofer	0% APR	£799
Home Theatre					
Model 55 S Surrounds	0% APR*	£129			

AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR TANNOY

Mercury			M Sub 10Subw'fer	0% APR	£24
MX1	0% APR*	£119	**Revolution**		
MX2	0% APR*	£149	R1	0% APR*	£199
MX3	0% APR	£229	R2	0% APR*	£349
Mercury Home Cinema			R3	0% APR	£549
MR*Front or Rear	0% APR*	£79			
MC Centre	0% APR*	£99			
MM*Floor Standing	0% APR	£299			

These are all real cherry wood veneer finish

AUTHORISED MAIN DEALER FOR AE ACOUSTIC ENERGY

Award - Winning package Deals
Ae109 Front/AE100I Rear/Aegis Centre/Aegis sub
£1000 0% APR up to 24months, 10% Deposit
BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV
Ae109 Front/AE100I Rear/AE107 Centre
£700 0% APR up to 24months, 10% Deposit

Aegis Series			Aegis Sub	0% APR	£299
Aegis One	0% APR*	£149	**100 Series**		
Aegis Two	0% APR	£249	Ae100I †	0% APR	£199
Aegis Centre	0% APR*	£139	Ae109 †	0% APR	£349
Aegis Three	0% APR	£349	Ae120 †	0% APR	£499

"HANG ON THE WALL" PLASMA TV'S

Panasonic

TC 42PD1 £6100
Exc. V.A.T. £7167 inc. V.A.T. TC42PD1

TC 37PD1 £4700
Exc. V.A.T. £5522 inc. V.A.T. TC37PD1

Panasonic's Plasma Display is a fundamental revolution in viewing technology, operating on principles similar to those of a fluorescent light. The Plasma Display can be connected to a PC and other AV peripherals, including the latest Digital set top boxes, DVD players, Video Recorders and Camcorders. Unique technology brings:
- Outstanding Picture performance
- Excellent Colour and Brightness
- High Definition Resolution
- Completely Flat Screen Super Thin Construction • MultiMedia Application • Double Scan Technology

PHILIPS

Let technology & art meet head on in your living room. The ultra thin profile of the Flat TV says sleek, sophisticated. The crisp, Crystal Clear picture clarity says no compromise for technical excellence. The 160o viewing angle means everyone can watch in amazement. The 40 Watts RMS means enough sound around for all. Combined with DVD, your home cinema is complete.

42 FD 9952 £5250
Exc. V.A.T. £6168 inc. V.A.T.
Technical specifications: • Visible Diagonal : 42", 106cm • Display Type : AC-Plasma • Aspect ratio: 16:9 • Digital Combfilter

SONY

PFM-5000A2W £4995
Exc. V.A.T. £5869 inc. V.A.T.

The PFM-500A2W incorporates a newly developed brighter flat panel. Now you can view clearer, brighter images than ever before. The front filter glass of the panel has a non-glare finish that reduces diffused light reflection. Easy handling: The option slot gives the PFM series tremendous flexibility in combination with the optional adaptor. Since optional plug and play adaptors can be added, the range of PFM series applications will continue to grow

Pioneer

Thin (9.8cm) and Light (40.3kgs) for Any Layout
The plasma displays streamlined dimensions and design make it easy to position almost anywhere - on a wall, rack, floor or ceiling. Future and Multi-Media Compatibility Pioneer's high definition XGA wide panel with 1,280 x 768 pixel resolution can process all types of full-specification VGA, SVGA and XGA, as well as down converted SXGA and VXGA format signals. The PDP-502MXE can support a wide range of screen sizes and can reproduce PAL, NTSC, SECAM and HDTV formats.

PDP-502MXE £8750
Exc. V.A.T. £10569 inc. V.A.T.

MAIL ORDER 01727 791133

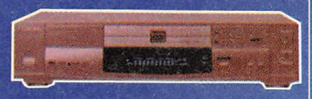
DVD VIDEO

TOSHIBA
SD2109

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £249 MULTI-REGION - £289

TOSHIBA
SD3109



0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £299 MULTI-REGION - £379

TOSHIBA
SD9000

0% APR Option

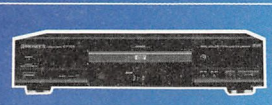
REGION 2 - £499 MULTI-REGION - £599

Pioneer
DV626

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £359 MULTI-REGION - £429

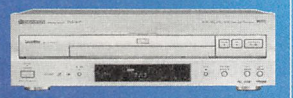
Pioneer
DV525



0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £CALL MULTI-REGION - £299

Pioneer
DVL919



0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £649 MULTI-REGION - £799

Pioneer
DV717

BLACK OR GOLD

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £439 MULTI-REGION - £479

SONY
DVPS7700

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £629 MULTI-REGION - £699

SONY
DVPS725

BLACK OR SILVER

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £439 MULTI-REGION - £549

SONY
DVPS525

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £329 MULTI-REGION - £429

SONY
DVPS325

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £289 MULTI-REGION - £349

SONY
DVP-CX850D

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £CALL MULTI-REGION - £CALL

Panasonic
DVD-A100

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £279 MULTI-REGION - £299

Panasonic
DVDA360

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £429 MULTI-REGION - £449

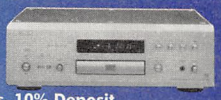
Panasonic
DVDL50

Palm cinema-World's smallest and lightest portable DVD player with 5" widescreen lcd monitor. Digital out for DTS / dolby digital and MPEG 2. Region 2 with NTSC playback. AC/DC operation.

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £699 MULTI-REGION - £799

DENON
DVD5000



0% APR up to 36 months, 10% Deposit

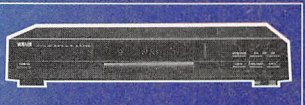
REGION 2 - £1599 MULTI-REGION - £1699

DENON
DVD2500

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £359 MULTI-REGION - £429

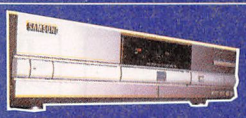
YAMAHA
DVDS795



0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £349 MULTI-REGION - £399

SAMSUNG
DVD709



0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £199 MULTI-REGION - £239

PHILIPS
DVD710

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £209 MULTI-REGION - £CALL

MARANTZ
DVD690

0% APR Option

REGION 2 - £349 MULTI-REGION - £CALL

MAIL ORDER 01727 791133

Hi SPEK electronics

0% APR

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT OPTION AVAILABLE ON ALL PRODUCTS* SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

VISIT OUR BRANCHES:

FINCHLEY

• We are one mile north of the junction at the A1000 and the A406 at Henly's Corner. Regents Park Road is a continuation of the Finchley Road (which originates in Central London) going North across the A406 North Circular. • 5 minutes drive from junction 2 on the M1 southbound carriageway. • Finchley Central is on the Northern Line. Turn left out of tube station, shop is 100 yards on the left.
• Parking is available opposite the store or in the streets behind.

BRENTWOOD

• We are located 5 minutes drive from junction 28 on the M25 in Brentwood town centre. • There is plenty of public car parking in the service road behind the store.

HOW TO ORDER MAIL ORDER

Simply call our dedicated call centre on 01727 791133 between the following hours: Mon - Sat 9am-6pm Sunday 11am-4pm. Our sales team will be happy to advise you on your purchases and process your order. Alternatively you can e-mail your orders to **sales@hispek.com.**
Hi-Spek welcome all major credit and debit cards such as Visa, Mastercard, Amex, Delta, Switch and Connect. All prices include V.A.T. Prices valid until 3/05/00. Omissions and errors excepted. Hi SPEK cannot accept responsibility for any printing errors.

HOME DELIVERY

We deliver anywhere on the UK mainland within 48 hrs. We can also deliver within 24 hours where this is requested. We use one of the UK's leading ISO9002 approved carriers to deliver promptly and efficiently. Our warehouse staff pick and pack your orders with pride. Each order is carefully checked and packed using the most robust materials ready for despatch. There is a small charge for our delivery service - we do not charge for packing.
Please note that all deliveries are subject to availability and rates refer to the UK Mainland. For 24 hour delivery some areas will not be covered EG. Scottish Highlands.

HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS
FINCHLEY, LONDON
344 - 346 Regents Park Rd,
Finchley Central, London N3 2LJ

TEL : 0208 349 1166

OPEN 9AM TO 6PM MONDAY - SATURDAY

Open Sunday 11am - 4pm

Free parking available opposite the store and in surrounding roads

HI-SPEK ELECTRONICS
BRENTWOOD, ESSEX
111 High Street Brentwood, Essex
CM14 4RX

TEL : 01277 226 303

OPEN 9AM TO 6PM MONDAY - SATURDAY

Situated 5 mins from junction 28 on the M25, public car park at the rear

prc HI FI & VIDEO — THE CAMCORDER & VCR

THE SERVICE

PRC Hi Fi and Video guarantee the best deals! We can also deliver your purchase anywhere in the UK within 24 hours! All the products we sell have a genuine manufacturers parts & labour guarantee (extended warranties are available at extra cost - Ask instore for details). We want to give you the very best - So visit our stores or call our hotline for the very best service in the business! We will beat any genuine deal.

SHOWROOMS

At PRC Hi Fi and Video you'll find a massive range of products on display and available for demonstration. Our friendly and experienced staff will be able to help you through every step of your purchase.

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If you can't visit one of our branches call our fast and efficient mail order service. we can take your order by credit card or cheque (made payable to 'PRC Hi Fi & Video') then leave the rest to us. your order can be dispatched 'Next Day' by carrier for peace of mind. Carriage is only £10 per large parcel and £5 for small accessories. Large parcels POA. (UK only).

0% FINANCE

At PRC we offer 0% Finance (subject to status) on selected products for up to 36 months - Ask instore for details. Not available on price match sales or special offers.

EXTENDED WARRANTIES

We can provide you with a competitive extended warranty which offers total protection against both accidental damage from day of purchase to breakdown for 5 years. The investment will give you peace of mind with guaranteed repair times and no bills to pay.

E&OE. Prices correct at time of going to press, include V.A.T. and are subject to change without notice. Pictures are for illustrative purposes only. Please mention our reference number (below) to claim these prices.

We will beat any 0% finance deal!

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BRANCHES

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FOREST GATE, LONDON. E7 8DF
TEL: 0208 470 3499
FAX: 0208 552 2931
OPEN MON-SAT 9.00AM - 6.00PM

Ilford Branch 0208 514 7449

95 CRANBROOK RD,
ILFORD, ESSEX. IG1 4PG
TEL: 0208 514 7449
OPEN MON-SAT 9.30AM - 6.00PM

REF:PRC/WV05/2K PLEASE QUOTE THIS

Panasonic NVDS33 CAMCORDER
- Mini DV Format Camcorder
- 200 x Digital Zoom
- Super Image Stabiliser

prc HI FI & VIDEO £749.95 SAVE £££'S

SONY CCDTR713 CAMCORDER

£355.00

SONY CCDTR427 CAMCORDER

£CALL

Panasonic NVEX3 CAMCORDER

£799.95

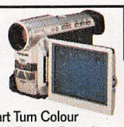
Panasonic NVMS5 CAMCORDER

£895.00

SONY CCDTRV36 CAMCORDER
- Fold Out 2.5" Colour LCD Screen
- 72 x Digital Zoom
- Night Shot O Lux
- Built in Video Light

prc HI FI & VIDEO £399.95 SAVE £££'S

Panasonic NVDS99 CAMCORDER



- Mini DV Video Format Camcorder • 3.8" Smart Turn Colour LCD • x24/x120 Digital Zoom • Playback Digital Zoom • Digital Effects • 0.5 Second Jet Zoom • Variable Speed Search • Quick-Charge Facility • Multi Screen & Picture-in-Picture

prc HI FI & VIDEO £799.95 SAVE £££'S

SONY DCRTRV120 CAMCORDER

£CALL

SONY DCRPC100 CAMCORDER

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

£CALL

Panasonic NVRX11 CAMCORDER

£259.95

SONY DCRTRV11 CAMCORDER

£CALL

SONY DCRTRV10 CAMCORDER
- 3.5" LCD Screen
- 40 x Digital Zoom
- Memory Stick Slot Built-In

prc HI FI & VIDEO £899.95 SAVE £££'S

SHARP VL-PD3 CAMCORDER
- 10x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Colour View Finder
- Still Photo Mode

GOLD

prc HI FI & VIDEO £669.95 SAVE £££'S

SONY DCRVX9000 CAMCORDER

£2450.00

SONY DCRVX1000 CAMCORDER

£1795.00

Panasonic NVDS11 CAMCORDER

£599.95

JVC GRDVX4 CAMCORDER

£769.95

SONY DCRTR7000 CAMCORDER
- Digital 8 Format
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Super Nightshot

prc HI FI & VIDEO £499.95 SAVE £££'S

JVC GVDVL9600 CAMCORDER

- 500 Lines Horizontal Resolution with High-Band processor.
- High-speed recording for high quality pro slow playback.
- 3.8" Amorphous-Silicon colour LCD monitor and colour viewfinder.

prc HI FI & VIDEO £999.95 SAVE £££'S

SONY CCDTRV66 CAMCORDER

£499.95

SONY DSCF55 DIGITAL STILL CAMERA

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JVC GRFX10 CAMCORDER

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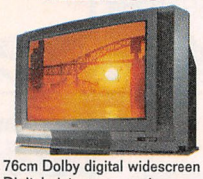

- 76cm Dolby digital widescreen TV
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- Picture size adjustment
- Icon on-screen display
- Super scene control

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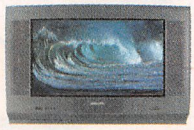

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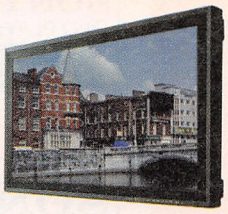

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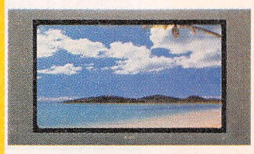

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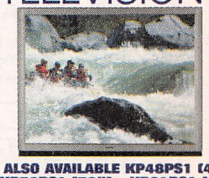

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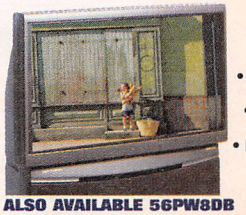

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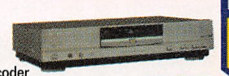

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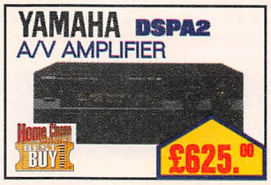

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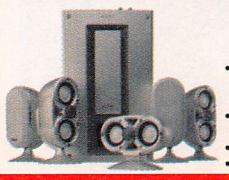

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UK MODEL
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- Nicam Stereo Sound
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Panasonic NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. NV-HD685S

UK MODEL
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- Nicam Stereo Sound
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UK MODEL
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- Super VHS Format
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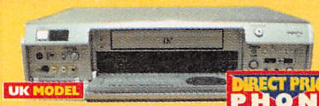
Panasonic DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. NV-DV10000



UK MODEL
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UK MODEL
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- Super VHS
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Twin Scart Sockets

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JVC SUPER VHS VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. HR-S7600EK

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Super VHS
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Video+ and PDC

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JVC SUPER VHS VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. HR-S9600EK

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Super VHS
- Audio Dubbing
- Jog and Shuttle

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JVC DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. HMDR10000

UK MODEL
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- Digital-to-Digital Record
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- Dual Deck VCR
- Audio Dubbing

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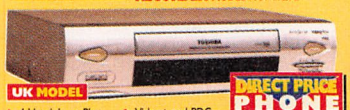
TOSHIBA NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. V729B



UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Video+ and PDC
- Twin Scart Sockets

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TOSHIBA NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. V859B

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Jog and Shuttle
- Insert Edit/Audio Dub

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PHILIPS NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VR600

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Video+ and PDC
- Remote Control

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VR805

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Video+ and PDC
- 'SILVER SHADOW'

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VR806

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Video+ and PDC
- 'COOL GREEN'

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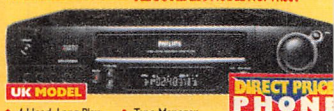
PHILIPS NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VR860



UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Tape Manager
- Multibrand Remote

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PHILIPS SUPER VHS VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VR1000

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Super VHS
- Jog and Shuttle
- Time Base Corrector

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HITACHI NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VTFX880

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Advert Skipping
- Video+ and PDC

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SANYO NICAM STEREO VIDEO RECORDER MODEL NO. VHR789E

UK MODEL
- 4 Head, Long Play
- Nicam Stereo Sound
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SONY DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DVPS525D

UK MODEL
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- 2 Scart Sockets
- Coaxial and Optical Outputs

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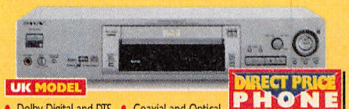
SONY DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DVPS725D



UK MODEL
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- S-Video and RGB Out.
- Coaxial and Optical Outputs

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Panasonic DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DVDA360EB

UK MODEL
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- S-Video and RGB Out.
- Coaxial and Optical Outputs

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Pioneer DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DV717

UK MODEL
- AWARD WINNER
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- 2 Scart Sockets
- S-Video and RGB Out.

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Pioneer DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DV919

UK MODEL
- Plays Laser Disc, CD's and DVD's
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- Coaxial/Optical Out.

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DENON DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DVD3000

UK MODEL
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- S-Video Output
- Coaxial and Optical Outputs

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TOSHIBA DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. SD2109B

UK MODEL
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- Coaxial Output
- One Scart Socket
- Remote Control

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TOSHIBA DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. SD3109B

UK MODEL
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- Optical/Coaxial Out.
- Jog Shuttle
- Remote Control

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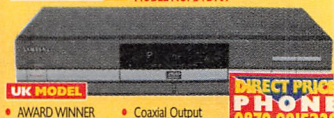
SAMSUNG DVD PLAYER MODEL NO. DVD709



UK MODEL
- AWARD WINNER
- Dolby Digital and DTS
- Coaxial Output
- Remote Control

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UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

24" NICAM WIDESCREEN TV MODEL NO. KV-24WX1S

- 24" (56cmV) Super Trinitron
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- Simple Menu & Remote

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

28" NICAM WIDESCREEN TV MODEL NO. KV-28FX20S

- 28" (66cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- 3D Sound System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

28" NICAM WIDESCREEN TV MODEL NO. KV-28FX60S

- 28" (66cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- 3 Scart Sockets

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

36" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TELEVISION MODEL NO. KV-36FS70S

- 36" (76cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- DRC FF (100Hz)

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

28" NICAM WIDESCREEN TV MODEL NO. KV-28DX20S

- 28" (66cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- Analogue/Digital Tuners

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

28" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TELEVISION MODEL NO. KV-28DS20S

- 28" (66cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Co-Axial Speaker System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

32" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. KV-32DS60S

- 32" (76cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Digital Picture and Sound

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

32" 100Hz WIDESCREEN TV MODEL NO. KV-32FC60Z

- 32" (76cmV) FD Trinitron WEGA
- 'Art Couture' Design
- Advanced 100Hz Digital Plus

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

41" NICAM WIDESCREEN TV MODEL NO. KP-41DS1

- 41" (103cmV) Intergrated Digital Terrestrial Projection Television
- Nicam Stereo Sound

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

48" HOME THEATRE TELEVISION MODEL NO. KP-48PS1

- 48" (121cmV) Rear Projection TV
- Home Theatre with DRC-MF
- 2 Way 4 Speaker System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

53" HOME THEATRE TELEVISION MODEL NO. KP-53PS1

- 53" (135cmV) Rear Projection TV
- Home Theatre with DRC-MF
- 2 Way 4 Speaker System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

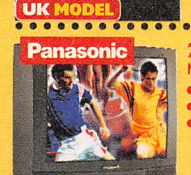
61" HOME THEATRE TELEVISION MODEL NO. KP-61PS1

- 61" (154cmV) Rear Projection TV
- Home Theatre with DRC-MF
- 2 Way 4 Speaker System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic



21" NICAM STEREO TV MODEL NO. TX-21MK1

- 21" (51cmV) Television
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- Remote Control

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

28" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. TX-28MK1

- 28" (66cmV) Quintrix Television
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Digital Management System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

28" NICAM STEREO TAU TV MODEL NO. TX-28PK1

- 28" (66cmV) TAU Television
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- Picture Enhancement Features

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

32" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. TX-32PK2

- 32" (76cmV) TAU Television
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Picture Enhancement Features

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

32" PURE FLAT WIDESCREEN TELEVISION MODEL NO. TX-32PF10

- 32" (78cmV) Television
- Quintrix Pure Flat Picture Tube
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

36" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. TX-36PF10

- 36" (86cmV) Television
- Quintrix Pure Flat Picture Tube
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

47" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. TX-47PT1

- 47" (119cmV) Widescreen
- 100Hz Super Digital Scan
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TOSHIBA

33" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. 3387DB

- 33" (80cmV) Television
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TOSHIBA

37" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV MODEL NO. 3787DB

- 37" (88cmV) Television
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TOSHIBA

32" 100Hz DOLBY DIGITAL TELEVISION MODEL NO. 32WD98B

- 32" (78cmV) Television
- 100Hz Digital Scanning
- 3 Scart Sockets

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TOSHIBA

40" DOLBY DIGITAL PROJECTION TELEVISION MODEL NO. 40PW8DB

- 40" Rear Projection TV
- Dolby Digital/Nicam Stereo
- 500 Page Megatext

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TOSHIBA

43" NICAM STEREO PROJECTION TELEVISION MODEL NO. 43PJ93B

- 43" Rear Projection Television
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- Hi-Brite Screen/Bass Boost

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS

32" 100Hz DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TELEVISION MODEL NO. 32PW6332C

- 32" (78cmV) 100Hz Widescreen
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Super Flat Blackline 'S' Tube

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS

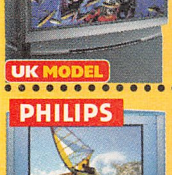
32" 100Hz DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TELEVISION MODEL NO. 32PW9515C

- 32" (78cmV) 100Hz Widescreen
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Dual Screen Picture and Text

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS



32" 100Hz NICAM STEREO TELEVISION MODEL NO. 32PW9534D

- 32" (78cmV) 100Hz Widescreen
- Nicam Digital Stereo Sound
- Available in 'Ice Blue' Design

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS

46" 100Hz WIDESCREEN PROJECTION TV MODEL NO. 46PP9501

- 46" 100Hz Projection Wide
- Virtual Dolby Surround
- 4 x Speaker System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SAMSUNG

21" NICAM STEREO TELEVISION MODEL NO. C1533CN

- 21" (51cmV) Television
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- 4:3 & 16:9 Zoom Viewing Modes

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SAMSUNG

32" PRO-LOGIC WIDESCREEN TELEVISION MODEL NO. WS32W6

- 32" (78cmV) 100Hz Widescreen TV
- 3D Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- Zoom & Panorama Viewing Modes

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

JVC

29" NICAM STEREO TELEVISION MODEL NO. AV29TS2

- 29" (68cmV) Television
- Nicam Stereo Sound
- Fastext / Including Stand

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

JVC

29" 3D PHONIC PRO-LOGIC TELEVISION MODEL NO. AV29SX2

- 29" (68cmV) Television
- 3D-Phonic Pro-Logic
- Fastext / Including Stand

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

LOEWE.

32" WIDESCREEN TELEVISION MODEL NO. X5281WG

- 32" (68cmV) Widescreen TV
- Optional Cabinet
- Available in Black or White

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

HITACHI

43" PRO-LOGIC PROJECTION TV MODEL NO. C43WP910TN

- 43" 100Hz Widescreen TV
- 100Hz, Dolby Pro-Logic
- MPEG + DTS Audio

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

NATIONAL CALL CENTRE ON 9015329

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FAX : 0870 902 1410

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At Empire Direct we offer you in addition a full 12 months nationwide in-home service on all non-portable appliances should the need arise. Optional extended warranties and installation services are available at discounted rates.

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Saturday: 9am - 6pm Sunday: 10am - 4pm.

✓ 8. Shop On-Line
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✓ 9. All Major Credit Cards Accepted
At Empire Direct we accept all major credit cards: **VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DINERS CARD, SWITCH.**

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SONY DOLBY DIGITAL/MPEG2 RECEIVER MODEL NO. STR-DB930B

UK MODEL
- 100w Surround Power
- Full DSP 24 + 32 Bit
- Custom Sound Fields
- Custom Sound Apps.

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

DENON DOLBY DIGITAL A/V RECEIVER MODEL NO. AVR3300

UK MODEL
- 850w System Power
- Dolby Digital/DTS
- SHARC 32-Bit DSP
- 8 Pre-Amp Outputs

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

DENON RDS RECEIVER MODEL NO. DRA-275RDS

UK MODEL
- 40w Per Channel
- RDS and Radiotext
- 2 Audio Line Inputs and 2 Tape Circuits

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

NAD STEREO INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER MODEL NO. C340

UK MODEL
- 2 x 50w Output
- All Discrete Circuitry
- Soft Clipping
- 7 Line Inputs

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

YAMAHA DOLBY PRO-LOGIC/AC3 RECEIVER MODEL NO. DSP-A595A

UK MODEL
- 2 x 75w Output
- Five Channels
- Inputs for Video & Audio Sources

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

YAMAHA DOLBY DIGITAL AMPLIFIER MODEL NO. DSP-A1

UK MODEL
- 110w Per Channel
- 42 Surround Modes
- Dolby Digital
- Learning Remote

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

ROTEL STEREO INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER MODEL NO. RA931

UK MODEL

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED in the 1997 What Hi-fi Awards. A good all rounder and built to last.

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY MINIDISC EDITING DECK MODEL NO. MDS-JE530

UK MODEL
- 24 Bit Accurate Bit-Stream
- Time Machine Record
- Full Editing Facilities
- Optical Digital Output

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY 'QS' MINIDISC EDITING DECK MODEL NO. MDS-JB930B

UK MODEL
- 24 Bit Accurate Bit-Stream
- Time Machine Record
- Full Editing Facilities
- R-Core Transformer

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

DENON THE UK'S BEST SELLING TUNER MODEL NO. TU-260L

UK MODEL
- Frequency Synthesized Digital Tuning
- Full Waveband Cover
- 20 Station Presets

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

YAMAHA DOLBY CASSETTE DECK MODEL NO. KX-393

UK MODEL
- Dolby B, C and HxPro
- Cassette Stabiliser
- CD Synchronizer
- Auto Tape Tuning

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

DENON DOLBY CASSETTE DECK MODEL NO. DRR-M10

UK MODEL

OPTION FOR THE DENON DM-3 AND DM-5 HI-FI SYSTEMS

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

TANNOY FLOORSTANDING SPEAKERS MODEL NO. R3
- AWARD WINNER
- 170w Output Power
- Available in Cherry

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

KEF Q SERIES COMPACT SPEAKERS MODEL NO. Q35
- 125w Per Channel
- Magentically Shielded
- Ideal for A/V Use!

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

mission COMPACT SPEAKERS MODEL NO. 701
- 100w Per Channel
- Bi-Wireable Speakers
- Available in Black

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Pioneer LIFESTYLE HOME CINEMA SYSTEM MODEL NO. NSDV1

THE WORLD'S FIRST DVD VIDEO BASED MINI HI-FI SYSTEM.

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Pioneer LIFESTYLE HI-FI SYSTEM MODEL NO. NS8T
- 2 x 30w Output
- RDS Tuner/CD Player
- Card Style Remote

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY MINIDISC MINI HI-FI SYSTEM MODEL NO. DHC-MD373T
- 2 x 30w Output
- MiniDisc/CD Player
- Cassette Deck/Tuner

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

DENON MINI HI-FI SYSTEMS MODEL NO. DF88
- 2 x 25w Output
- RDS Tuner/CD Player
- Remote Control

UK MODEL EXCLUDING SPEAKERS

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

DENON MINI HI-FI SYSTEMS MODEL NO. D6.5
- 2 x 50w Output
- RDS Tuner/CD Player
- Remote Control

UK MODEL EXCLUDING SPEAKERS

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

aiwa MINI HI-FI SYSTEMS MODEL NO. NSXS999
- 2 x 150w Output
- 3 CD Changer
- Double Cassette Deck

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

JVC COMPONENT HI-FI SYSTEM MODEL NO. Adagio J30
- 2 x 70w Output Power
- 3 CD Triple Tray Changer
- Double Cassette Deck

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

JVC COMPONENT HI-FI SYSTEM MODEL NO. Adagio J75R
- 260w Total Power
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- 3 CD Triple Tray Changer

UK MODEL

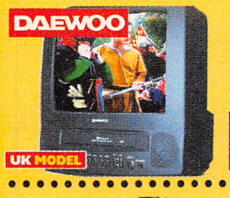
DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

KENWOOD COMPACT AUDIO SYSTEM MODEL NO. XD-752
- 400w Total Power
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround
- 3 CD Rotary System

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

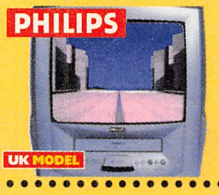
DAEWOO 14" TV/VIDEO COMBINATION MODEL NO. GB14F7
- 14" Portable TV with Long Play Video
- Video+, Remote



UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

PHILIPS 14" TV/VIDEO COMBINATION MODEL NO. 14PV320
- 14" Portable TV with Long Play Video
- Video+, Remote



UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY 21" TV/VIDEO COMBINATION MODEL NO. KV21V6
- 21" (51cmV) Portable TV with LP Video
- 2 Tuners, Remote

UK MODEL

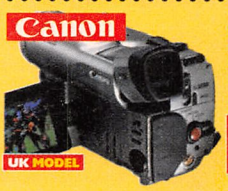
DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SAMSUNG VIDEO 8 CAMCORDER MODEL NO. VPA30
- 16x Optical Zoom
- Digital Effects
- Image Titler

UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

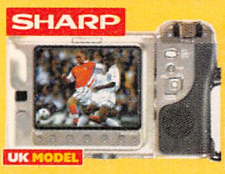
Canon DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER MODEL NO. MV200
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 320x Digital Zoom
- Flex Zone Control



UK MODEL

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SHARP HANDYCAM CAMCORDER MODEL NO. VLE630H
- 3" LCD Screen
- 16x Optical Zoom
- Remote Control



UK MODEL

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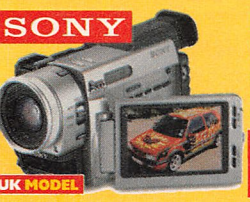


UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. DCR-TRV900E

- 3.5" LCD Screen
- 40x Digital Zoom
- Steady Shot, Remote

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY

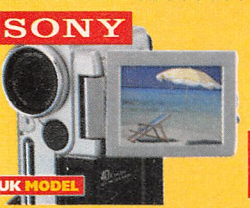
UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. DCR-TRV10

- 3.5" LCD Screen
- 40x Digital Zoom
- Remote Control

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

SONY



UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. DCR-PC3

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 40x Digital Zoom
- Mem. Stick

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. NV-DS11B

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 400x Digital Zoom
- Digital Effects

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. NV-DS33B

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 100x Digital Zoom
- Remote Control

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

Panasonic

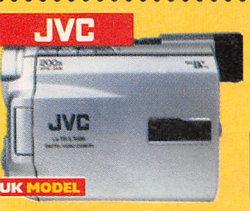
UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. NV-DS99B

- 3.8" LCD Screen
- 120x Digital Zoom
- Optical Image Stabiliser

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

JVC



UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. GRDVL9500

- 3.8" LCD Screen
- 200x Digital Zoom
- 0 Lux Night Shot

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

JVC

UK MODEL

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDER
MODEL NO. GRDVX4

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 100x Digital Zoom
- Remote Control

DIRECT PRICE PHONE 0870 9015329

NICAM VIDEO RECORDERS

	EMPIRE PRICE
FERGUSON FV405HV	phone
HITACHI VTFX850	phone
HITACHI VTFX860	phone
HITACHI VTFX880	phone
JVC HRDR10000H (Digital)	phone
JVC HRDVS1 (Mini DV/S-VHS)	phone
JVC HRJ660EK	phone
JVC HRJ670EK	phone
JVC HRS6600	phone
JVC HRS7600	phone
JVC HRS8600	phone
JVC HRS9600	phone
PANASONIC NV-DV1000 (Digital)	phone
PANASONIC NV-FJ610B	phone
PANASONIC NV-FJ610BS	phone
PANASONIC NV-FJ615BS	phone
PANASONIC NV-HD675BS	phone
PANASONIC NV-HD710BS	phone
PANASONIC NV-HD760BS	phone
PANASONIC NV-HS850BS	phone
PANASONIC NV-HS950B	phone
PHILIPS VR600	phone
PHILIPS VR700	phone
PHILIPS VR805	phone
PHILIPS VR806	phone
PHILIPS	phone
PHILIPS VR1000	phone
SAMSUNG SV623	phone
SANYO VHR899E	phone
SONY SLVSE700	phone
SONY SLVSE800	phone
SONY SLVSE85	phone
SONY SLVSF90	phone
SONY SLVSF90W	phone
SONY SLVSF99	phone
SONY SLVT2000	phone
SONY SLVE1000	phone
TOSHIBA V709B	phone
TOSHIBA V729B	phone
TOSHIBA V859B	phone

MONO VIDEO RECORDERS

HITACHI VTMX810	phone
HITACHI VTMX835	phone
JVC HRJ270	phone
JVC HRJ470	phone
PANASONIC NV-SD440B	phone
PHILIPS VR200	phone
SANYO VHR289E	phone
SHARP VCM302	phone
SHARP VCM312	phone
SHARP VCM321	phone
SHARP VCM522	phone
SONY SLVSE200	phone
SONY SLVSE300	phone
TOSHIBA V429B	phone
TOSHIBA V829B	phone

NICAM TELEVISIONS

HITACHI C2156TN	phone
HITACHI C2556TN	phone
HITACHI C2856TN	phone
JVC AV21TS4	phone
JVC AV25SX4	phone
JVC AV25TS4	phone
JVC AV29SX4	phone
JVC AV29TS4	phone
PANASONIC TX21CK1	phone
PANASONIC TX21MK1	phone
PANASONIC TX25CK1	phone
PANASONIC TX25MK1	phone
PANASONIC TX28CK1	phone
PANASONIC TX28MK1	phone
PANASONIC TX29AK1	phone
PANASONIC TX33AK10	phone
PHILIPS 25PT4475	phone
PHILIPS 28PT4475	phone
PHILIPS 29PT6773C	phone
SAMSUNG CI533CN	phone
SONY KV21X55	phone
SONY KV25X55	phone
SONY KV29FX11S	phone
SONY KV29X55	phone
SONY KV29FX20S	phone
TOSHIBA 2173DB	phone
TOSHIBA 2573DB	phone
TOSHIBA 2873DB	phone

DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TELEVISIONS

HITACHI C2586TN	phone
HITACHI C2886TN	phone
JVC AV25SX4	phone
JVC AV29SX4	phone
TOSHIBA 2987DB	phone
TOSHIBA 3387DB	phone
TOSHIBA 3787DB	phone

WIDESCREEN TELEVISIONS

HITACHI C28WD2TN	phone
HITACHI C32WD2TN	phone
HITACHI C32W40DTN	phone
JVC AV24WT2EK	phone
JVC AV28WFR1EK	phone
JVC AV28WR4EK	phone
JVC AV28WT4EK	phone
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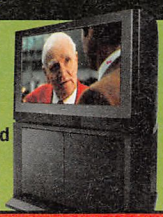

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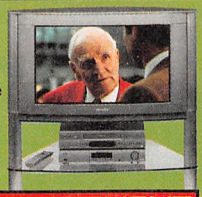

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CLASS ACT

Ian Calcutt reveals the delights of the £600 Nakamichi DVD-10s, a high-end machine with a performance to match. Oh, and it's dead easy to hack for Region 1 playback

Until such developments as recordable DVD become commonplace, DVD players still straddle two worlds. Despite the advanced video playback capabilities, many DVD players still look and feel like glorified CD units, the kind of thing that should nestle between a stereo amp, cassette deck and turntable.

Nakamichi has an audiophile history, which is clearly evident in the specifications it has added to the DVD-10s. For those with good amp and speaker systems – but no Dolby Digital – Nakamichi has included a full Dolby Digital decoder, plus further bonuses such as CD-R playback (for those who record their own CDs).

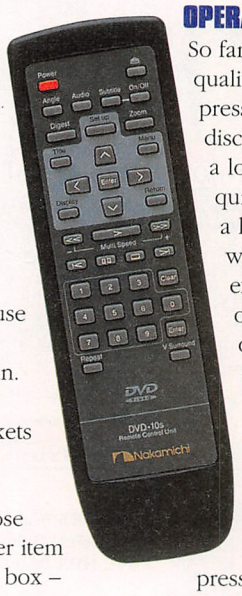
DESCRIPTION

Black on the outside, slender in height but full-sized in width, the DVD-10s is fashioned much like an audio system separate. This aspect is emphasised again with the long, thin front-panel buttons, headphone jack and jog/shuttle dial that looks more like a volume control. The LED display lights up in soft, reddish orange instead of AV equipment's regular bright green.

The remote control is basic and functional, lacking in special refinements like clear icons and ergonomic shaping. Try to find Pause or Stop in a hurry and you'll see what we mean.

Around the back however, are more sockets than usual. Admittedly, the single Scart will be a disappointment to those who like to loop another item through – like a set-top box – but on the plus side, it supports composite, RGB and S-video.

Otherwise, there are copious connections: coaxial and optical digital outputs, sockets for S-video, component video and composite video (x2), downmixed stereo output phonos and 5.1-channel output phonos for the built-in surround sound decoder.



OPERATION

So far, so good. The quality continues on pressing eject, when the disc tray emerges with a lovely, smooth and quiet action. This is a leisurely player which takes its time executing many operations. The onscreen display is adorned with snazzy, luxurious graphics (which probably account for the slowness). Similarly, the fade-out effect on pressing Stop is a nice, though totally unnecessary touch! Disc navigation between menus, etc can also be tardy compared with other players.

The DVD-10s is compatible with both CD-R and Video-CD (including Playback Control for VCDs). Video output is in original PAL or NTSC, depending on the disc, though forcing the player via the menu to output PAL allows an NTSC-to-PAL conversion. The results of this are slightly juddery on movement but otherwise satisfactory.

> **"Detail, contrast and grain levels are a step ahead of the competition"**

Any DVDs encoded with 96kHz sound will be converted to a 48kHz sampling rate (despite Nakamichi's audiophile reputation, this deck will not output the full 96kHz).

Features-wise, there's the whole roster of standard DVD options, including control over subtitles, angles, TV aspect ratio, digital audio output, parental

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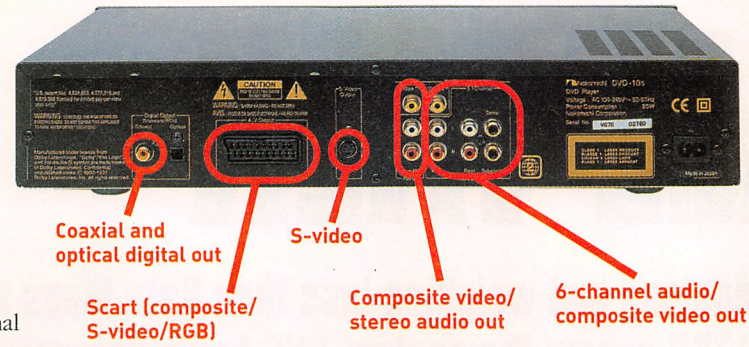


lock, programme and repeat play, plus menu and disc languages. Due to the decoder, speaker setup options are also provided through the onscreen menu. Also included is a Virtual Surround mode for simulated rear-channel effects from normal stereo speakers.

More exotic features include a x2 and x4 picture zoom and Pan function. The former is of reasonable quality, but the latter gives a far-from-pretty blowup effect. Trick play for DVD provides four-speed slow motion and fast scan in either direction, while for VCD there are two speeds. During playback, one can easily adjust the DVD-10s's level of picture brightness, contrast, sharpness and hue (for NTSC).

The Digest feature, which resembles Hitachi's Disc Navigation system, provides 5sec clips of each DVD's chapter openings and holds them in nine thumbnail frames per screen. This acts as an alternative scene access menu should the disc's own version be inadequate. Again, these manoeuvres are rather slow. Related to this feature is the Intro Scan – as found on some VCRs.

Bookmarks can be entered into the memory at any point, though these are limited to two per disc, with a maximum of five discs (in any combination of DVD, CD or VCD). A simple Resume Play feature comes into effect after pressing Stop, though sadly the position is forgotten if Power Save mode is on and the player has gone to 'sleep' in the meantime.

PERFORMANCE

Despite the Region 2 stamp on the back, the DVD-10s has little regard for such boundaries. It can easily be hacked to play discs from any region (see box).

The results across the range of Region 1 and 2 discs that we tried were never less than impressive. Despite edges being sometimes a tad too obvious, overall detail, contrast and grain levels are noticeably a step ahead of the competition and colours (via RGB) are bold and bright. On vividly shot films like 1999's *The Mummy*, it's a bit over the top, but you can always switch to S-video (which is the more naturalistic option here) or adjust your TV.

It's also good to know that the player's picture settings can be altered to suit if the disc warrants it. However, the default settings seemed more than adequate with our pile of test titles, ranging from the slick *Austin Powers 2* to the gritty *Saving Private Ryan*.

A word of warning – there was a slight glitch with two discs. It skipped out early on one of *The Matrix*'s notorious White Rabbit trouble spots, and it also failed to automatically engage *The Mummy*'s required subtitles (to provide translations from Egyptian and give location captions). The option is there, but you have to dig for it in menus.

Audio performance is well up to spec for Dolby Digital, though it was dulled by some hum detected, to be fair, by our test equipment rather than our human ears. Only bats are likely to tell the difference at this level. *The Matrix* comes out with all guns blazing, as does *Saving Private Ryan* in DTS (and a handy front-panel LED confirms the presence of Spielberg's preferred sound system). Its handling of more subtle material, as well as CD playback, is also very gratifying.

CONCLUSION

Nakamichi's latest player improves on the earlier DVD-10a. It retains its predecessor's stylish looks and solid manufacturing, but adds improved AV performance and features to make this a desirable purchase for the wealthier viewer.

It can easily hold its own against Sony and Pioneer machines at this price point. This is undoubtedly a player for connoisseurs but they will be getting mostly what they pay for. Furthermore, it can be made multi-regional with little fuss, and is all the better for it ❐

DVD-10s HACK

The player must have no disc inside and be switched off with mains connected. On the front panel, press and hold both the Dimmer and Reverse Skip buttons and press the power on. Keep the Dimmer and Reverse Skip buttons held down. The front-panel display should change from 'Nakamichi' to '– – – –'.

Keep holding down the Dimmer and Reverse Skip buttons for about 5sec, then at the same time also press 1, 9, 9, 9 on the remote control until the display changes. 'A-00 D-0x' will appear – with 'x' corresponding to the regional code of the player (eg: 'A-00 D-02' on the display indicates Region 2. Let go of Dimmer and Reverse Skip.

To change the code, simply press the appropriate buttons on the handset (eg: '00' for zone-free multi-regional operation), then press Enter on the handset. The display will confirm your change with the 'A-00' part disappearing.

Turn the power off and on again on the front panel. The machine is now set to the new code. If any discs cause problems, try entering the specific region in the above sequence, eg: '01' for Region 1, '02' for Region 2, etc.

VERDICT

A fully featured luxury deck with a superb picture and sturdy build

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	8/10
FEATURES	9/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES

Dolby Digital/DTS-compatible
Built-in Dolby Digital decoder
CD-R playback
Component video output
NTSC-to-PAL conversion

WHAT'S GOOD

Picture; features; build-quality; handset hack

WHAT'S BAD

Slow navigation

FEATURES

DVD, CD, CD-R, VCD (with PBC) compatible; Dolby Digital, DTS and MPEG audio-compatible; NTSC playback in NTSC or PAL; 96kHz audio at 48kHz sampling; onscreen display; LED display dimmer; 2x and 4x picture zoom and pan; chapter digest screen; intro scan; bookmark, programme, repeat, random and resume play; virtual surround sound; Dolby Digital dynamic range control; digital picture filter; variable picture controls; speaker setup and test tone; auto power off and TV screen saver; parental lock

SOCKETS

Front: headphone output (jack)
Rear: coaxial digital output; optical digital audio output; one Scart (composite, RGB and S-video); one S-video output; component video output (phonos); one composite video output; stereo line output (phonos); 5.1-channel audio outputs (phonos)

DIMENSIONS

430(w) x 88(h) x 310(d)mm

CONTACTS

☎ 020 8863 9117
www.nakamichi.com

TEST DATA

Video jitter: 3ns (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -74.6dB (very good)
Chroma AM/PM: -68.5dB/-63.7dB (excellent/average)
Chroma crosstalk: -55.6dB (average)
Frequency response at 5.8MHz (S-video): -7.67 dB (very good)
composite: -6.26dB (very good)
Digital deviation: 1,155.4 picosecs

SHARP DV-L70S Portable DVD player

SMALL TALK

With pint-sized dimensions and weighing less than Kate Moss on a diet, Sharp's £1,250 DV-L70S seems the perfect DVD travelling companion. Ian Calcutt gets out his magnifying glass for a look

With ever-shrinking electronics, it's now possible to cram an entire DVD player into an object about the size of a paperback book – and that even includes a colour screen. There's probably a joke to be made about male consumers boasting about how small their unit is.

But we'll leave that aside and get down to the serious business of whether the most portable DVD player yet is truly worth walking away with.

DESCRIPTION

Weighing a mere 620g (without the battery pack), the DV-L70S is one of the lightest and smallest portable players in existence. With its silver styling and slim, flip-up 7in LCD screen, it looks like a half-sized laptop computer, while the pop-up disc lid resembles part of a portable CD player (which it is of course, and more besides).

All controls except the on/off button and volume dial reside on an inside panel to the right of the disc housing. Most functions are supported here while the handset controls everything. It's a chunky remote for such a diminutive machine, and is essentially the same as those supplied with Sharp's larger players.

If you're carrying the player around and space is at a premium it might be best to leave the remote behind. It's a shame a credit-card sized version hasn't been supplied.

Alongside the volume control on the right-hand side of the player are the input/output sockets, about which, more later.

OPERATION

Special space-saving considerations apply to the sockets. All of the AV connections are of the mini-jack variety and many double as both input and output. For example, the audio jack provides analogue input, output and optical digital output all in one.

Video input (composite-only) is for using the L70S's LCD screen for displaying pictures from external sources, such as a camcorder. Sharp provides two sets of AV cables for S-video, composite and analogue stereo audio, but no optical digital audio cable. To switch from DVD playback to input mode is a simple one-button operation.

The supplied AC adapter will work on mains standards between 110-240V and 50Hz or 60Hz, effectively making it a worldwide player – except that the player is designed for Region 2 only. As far as making it multi-regional, this silvery nut is reportedly a hard one to crack, so once again, regional coding makes the idea of a truly portable player a joke, at least in Western markets.

A big snag is that this player comes with no battery, so unless you are simply using it around the home or office, you need to shell out another £250 for the optional battery pack. This puts the total amount above rival portable players, such as those from Panasonic and Pioneer.

Battery charge time is about 5hr for the 3hr maximum operation. A battery capacity indicator lets you know how much charge is left.

GUIDE PRICE: £1,250 (INC BATTERY)

The LCD screen's viewing angle is fairly critical, though rather than vanishing totally as LCD images used to, it simply goes foggy if you don't have it positioned correctly. The display has a fair amount of latitude horizontally – so two people could quite easily view side-by-side – but the vertical tilt has to be almost spot on.

Compared to some portable CD players – and even full-sized DVD players – the L70S is very quiet when playing discs. Its most obvious drawback is sluggish navigation between disc menus, especially when playing a newly inserted DVD.

"Colour reproduction is first-rate for LCD"

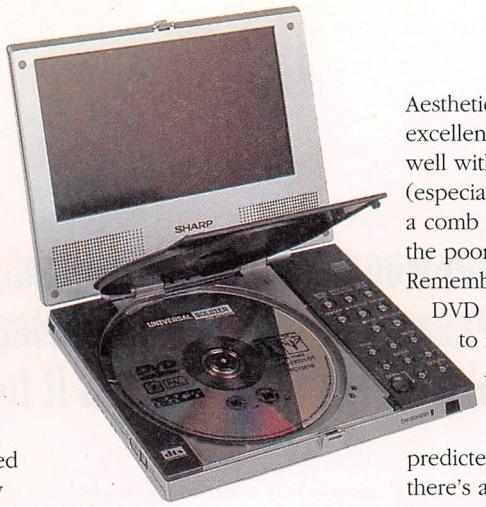
The setup modes will be familiar to users of full-sized players, and include TV mode (for the video outputs) and aspect ratio selection for the LCD display (4:3, Smart Stretch, Zoom and full 16:9 stretch).

An onscreen display provides disc data during playback, including elapsed time and audio info. This is stripped down however, as it doesn't provide options such as time remaining for track, disc, etc.

Resume Play memory will take you to the last position if Stop has been pressed, while Direct Skip allows you to jump by a specified number of tracks (CD/VCD) or chapters (DVD).

Pressing Video Adjust on the remote enables the LCD display to be altered in terms of brightness and colour. The Backlight button switches the screen's overall brightness from High to Low (for day or night-time use), or Off (for using the player without the screen).

Additionally, Sharp's Digital Gamma and S.Picture video enhancements are on offer to tweak relative brightness levels and sharpness.



These all take a bit of experimenting with but some good results can be found.

PERFORMANCE

Not a perfect machine but a fine one considering the miniaturisation involved. We've seen full-sized decks that give worse results. Still, they don't cost £1,000, so whether you're getting good value for money is open to question.

Looking at the LCD screen, contrast is excellent with a very good black level and brilliant, clean highlights. Colour reproduction is, again, first-rate for LCD, although there is some banding in tonal gradations and a few digital artefacts visible on subtle shades like skin tone. Detail also drops off with fine areas like grass or rippling water, but at this screen size you can't expect perfection, nor are you likely to notice!

Connecting to a full-sized TV via S-video (in this case a 32in widescreen Toshiba), we were expecting the worst, especially given the L70S's disappointing tech test measurements.

Aesthetically, while not excellent, the player performs well within acceptable standards (especially on a TV that has a comb filter to improve the poor chroma crosstalk). Remember that even poor DVD players are superior to normal VHS.

Audio from the player's own miniature speakers is not as tinny as predicted – and of course there's a headphone option for a more intimate experience. Connecting the player's digital audio output to a full surround system produced a fairly ungarnished Dolby Digital sound, but the latest DTS demo disc had the edge, with a lovely, full-blooded sound. Let's hope that the rumoured release of the DTS-equipped *Sleepy Hollow* on R2 is true (see *News*).

CONCLUSION

Apart from the absence of the odd function found on larger players, the DV-L70S is fully-featured, has versatile connections and a sizeable, bright and colourful LCD screen. It's a shame about the overweight and oversized remote control, optional extra battery and average AV test results.

Not quite as good-looking as the other current portables, the DV-L70S is nevertheless a tempting item as far as desirable 'toys for boys' is concerned. It has a genuine usefulness as a portable DVD/CD/VCD player, but it comes at quite a price and regional coding may severely limit your horizons ❐

VERDICT

Recommended if saving millimetres and grammes is really more important than saving pounds (sterling)

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	7/10
SOUND	7/10
FEATURES	8/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	8/10

KEY FEATURES

Compact, lightweight portable player
7in built-in colour LCD monitor
Dolby Digital/DTS-compatible
Built-in stereo speakers
Virtual Surround Sound
Digital Gamma Correction

WHAT'S GOOD

Bright, colourful LCD screen; tidy proportions

WHAT'S BAD

Pricey; expensive battery (£250); Region 2-only

FEATURES

DVD, VideoCD (with PBC), CD, CD-R-compatible; NTSC playback as PAL60; parental lock; Dolby Digital output compression; Resume Play memory; trick play; Direct Skip; chapter, title, disc and A-B repeat modes; program play; video adjust; Digital Gamma and S.Picture display settings

SOCKETS

Left: DC in (jack)
Right: composite video input/output and S-video output (mini-jack); stereo analogue audio input/output and optical digital output (mini-jack); stereo headphone output (mini-jack)

DIMENSIONS

188(w) x 141(d) x 25.4(h)mm (without battery)

CONTACT

Sharp ☎ 0161 205 2333
www.sharp-world.com

TEST DATA

Video jitter: 4ns (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -60.8 (average)
Chroma AM/PM: -65.3dB/-64.7dB (good/average)
Chroma crosstalk: -31.dB (below average)
Frequency response at 5.8MHz (composite): -9.94 (average)
S-video: -10.33 (average)
Digital deviation: 3,651.7 picosecs (below average)

KILLER CLONE

Kenwood has cannily re-badged the excellent Panasonic DVD-A360 to bring us this £480 player. Ian Calcutt takes it for a spin

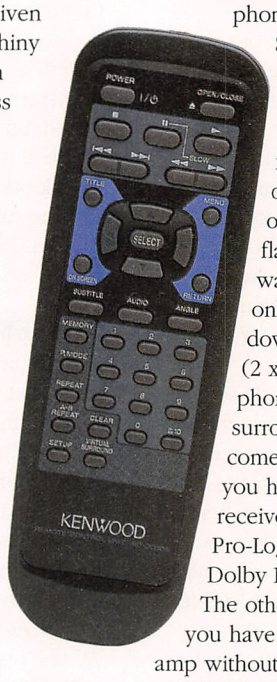
In the short history of DVD, few players have been cloned as much as Panasonic's. Some, like the DVD-A160, are a good starting point but could do with a little refinement. Panasonic did that itself with the much higher-spec DVD-A360, which had full Dolby Digital and DTS decoding built in, plus important connections such as RGB via Scart. Having won a Best Buy in our Jan '00 issue (p82), this deck was ripe for re-badging.

Step forward Kenwood, whose DVF-5020 bears an uncanny resemblance to the A360 in terms of features, sockets and onscreen operation. It loses the Panasonic name and luxurious front-panel sheen, but this is balanced by £70 off the asking price. Which is nice.

DESCRIPTION

A step back in terms of aesthetics, the DVF-5020 is rather ugly compared to its Panasonic 'parent'. The smooth, silver-grey fascia has given way to a cheap-style shiny black plastic front with a horrible and pointless series of angular indentations. Missing from the front are the A360's jog/shuttle dial, headphone jack and volume control.

The remote too, is actually an old-style Panasonic copy, not the one with the neat joystick control that accompanies the A360.



Around the back things look much more familiar and it's all good news. First off, there are two Scarts, one of which is switchable between composite, S-video and RGB; the other to loop through another device in the chain such as a VCR or set-top box. Next to the Scarts are two composite video phonos, a separate S-video socket and the audio outs. These take the form of digital outputs (both optical and coaxial flavours if you want to bypass the onboard decoder), downmixed stereo (2 x phono) and six phono outputs for 5.1 surround sound. These come into play if you have an older receiver/amp with Pro-Logic but not Dolby Digital.

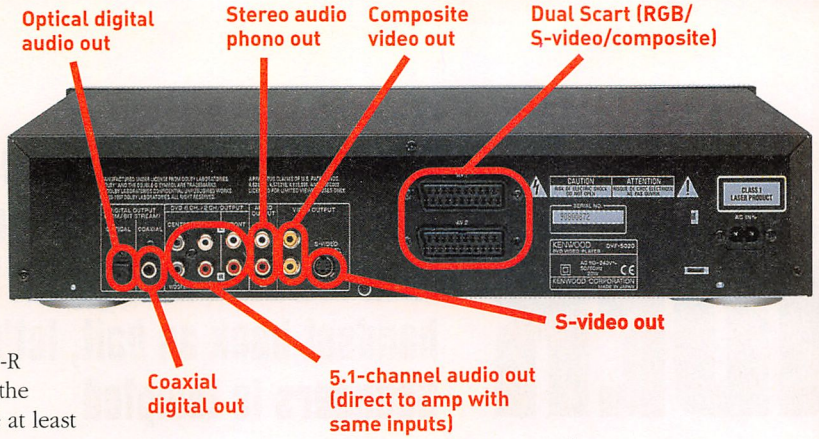
The other advantage, if you have a Dolby Digital amp without DTS, is that the DVF-5020 will do the DTS decoding for you and pass it on to the amp. All you need in both cases is an amp that accepts the six-channel pre-outs from the player.

OPERATION

The DVF-5020 will accept the usual range of CD, Video CD (with playback control) and DVD discs, however it will spit out recordable or rewriteable CDs. A bonus, though, is the deck's ability to output 96kHz/24-bit audio in its full, unfettered form – should you have one of the (admittedly uncommon) enhanced audio DVDs and a suitable amp.

The onscreen Graphical User Interface (GUI) provides the now-familiar DVD options (disc audio settings, TV aspect ratio selection, language for discs and menu, etc). One handy embellishment inherited from the Panasonic is Original Language selection, which makes a disc default to its proper language regardless of the alternatives. If you have subtitles selected for, say,

GUIDE PRICE: £480



English, then you won't have to accidentally suffer the horrors of dubbing.

The colour and position of the GUI itself can also be changed if necessary. Despite the lack of CD-R or Region 1 playback, the onscreen messages are at least very informative when you try to spin these discs. Digital Picture Modes enable you to fine-tune picture attributes between Normal, Soft, Fine and Cinema as well as offering user-selectable tweaks for contrast, colour, etc. NTSC discs can be output as raw NTSC or converted to PAL60, depending on your TV (note that this is not a total PAL conversion, so older or quirkier TVs may resist).

"Breathtakingly clear detail and vibrant hues"

Pressing Stop will bring in the Resume memory, returning you to where you left off. Working in conjunction with this is a Chapter Review option that acts as a recap of earlier scenes. Trick play features are extensive, with five speeds in both directions for slow motion and fast scan. The initial forward-scan speed also retains bursts of the soundtrack (if desired).

Under more advanced options, Program Play offers various Repeat and A-B Repeat choices, there are bookmarks (to a maximum of five), plus Random and user-definable memory playback (for track, title, chapter, etc).

Dialogue Enhancer works on Dolby Digital or DTS and boosts the sound of the centre (dialogue) channel without affecting the rest. There's also Virtual Surround Sound in case you have a speaker shortage (although we doubt whether you'd want to spend the extra £200 on a surround decoding player like this if you didn't have speakers to match).

For those using the onboard decoding, there's a whole roster of speaker setup menus to get the sound mix right.

PERFORMANCE

Like its Panasonic forebear, this highly specced player's AV performance is certainly not disappointing. The unit itself may be dull but the pictures and sound it provides are enough to forgive the eyesore factor.

S-video colour reproduction is a tad muted, but swapping to RGB is like entering another dimension, with breathtakingly clear detail and vibrant, though restrained, hues.

Our much-used R2 test disc, Universal's *The Mummy*, looked as bold as could be, even in smokier scenes with subtle gradations of tone. Truly excellent. Even a great player can't perform miracles though, and a poor transfer like EIV's *Deep Rising* was still very grainy.

Audio reproduction across the range of Dolby Pro-Logic, Digital and DTS is fairly impressive, although Dolby Digital is a little too harsh for our ears. Our technical test revealed a rather below average digital deviation due to internal hum and power supply switching.

CONCLUSION

It may be a copy and you might want to put a paper bag over it, but Kenwood has done a sterling job of repackaging the A360 by taking all the best features, retaining the AV quality and attaching a cheaper price tag.

Compared to its 'forebear', the DVF-5020 has inferior build quality, lacks a jog/shuttle on the front panel and has a less ergonomic remote control. At least the wealth of rear connections has been kept – sometimes these are the first to be cut down when economising.

Overall, if you don't mind losing the touch of Panasonic polish, Kenwood's DVF-5020 makes an existing Best Buy even better value ❐

VERDICT

It may be an ugly duckling but it can fly with the best in AV quality

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	7/10
FEATURES	9/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES
Dolby Digital/DTS-compatible
Built-in Dolby Digital decoder
NTSC playback in PAL60
96kHz/24-bit output
Digital picture modes

WHAT'S GOOD
Picture; sound; features; connections

WHAT'S BAD
Looks

FEATURES
DVD, CD, VCD (with PBC) compatible; Dolby Digital/DTS and MPEG audio-compatible; 96kHz/ 24-bit output (with 48kHz option); NTSC playback in NTSC or PAL60; onscreen display; resume play; chapter review; trick play; digital picture modes; direct view and projection TV settings; dialogue enhancer; dynamic range compression; Virtual Surround Sound; master volume; speaker setup; original language option; program, repeat & random play; 5-marker memory; karaoke vocals on/off; child lock; LED dimmer

SOCKETS
Rear: optical digital audio output; coaxial digital audio output; two Scarts (AV1: composite, RGB and S-video); one S-video output; two composite video outputs; stereo line output (phonos); 5.1-channel audio outputs (phonos)

DIMENSIONS
440(w) x 265(d) x 99(h)mm

CONTACT
Kenwood ☎ 01923 816444
www.kenwoodcorp.com

TEST DATA
Video jitter: 3ns (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -71.0dB (good)
Chroma AM/PM: -72.0dB/-71.5dB (excellent/excellent)
Chroma crosstalk: -53.1dB (average)
Frequency response at 5.8MHz (composite): -6.36dB (very good); (S-video): -6.21 dB (very good)
Digital deviation: 2,751.5 picosecs (below average)

BUDGET BLUNDER

Ariston (no, not the company that makes fridges) enters the DVD arena with the £170 DVD-2000. With an easy handset hack as bait, let's see if Paul Saunders is tempted

We have recently seen an explosive growth in the market for sub-£200 DVD players. Machines from Wharfedale, Bush, and even the ill-fated PROline have been part of a DVD bonanza which took many industry insiders by surprise.

The latest player to enter this budget battleground comes courtesy of Ariston, a name more commonly associated with washing machines and spin-dryers. Actually, this player originates from Ariston Acoustics, a budget hi-fi and home cinema company. According to the machine's importer, Richer Sounds, it has no links with the kitchen appliance manufacturer.

Richer Sounds also crows about stocks of the DVD-2000 having sold out once, with replacements due in the near future. But does this deck outdo the numerous budget players currently clogging up the market?

DESCRIPTION

The DVD-2000 is a sleek-looking beast considering its budget nature. While the player's fascia isn't exactly minimalist – because of an over-abundance of control buttons either side of the centre-mounted DVD tray – it still looks appealing thanks to a stylish dark-grey colour scheme. This player certainly looks as if it will do the business.

The gamut of front-mounted buttons cover all the usual playback functions, in addition to Menu, Setup, Cursor controls, Enter/Select, Program, Clear, Return, Zoom, Repeat, Display and Sub-Pic. The DVD-2000 also sports a front-mounted headphone jack with volume control.

> **"Sound is horribly thin and reedy"**

The player's rather serious look is reinforced by its impressive build quality. Clad in a metal casing, the DVD-2000 looks and feels reassuringly solid. However, a quick look at the player's rear reveals where compromises have been made.

Rear socketry comprises a single Scart, one composite video out, stereo phono outputs, and an optical (TOSlink) digital output. That's it. No S-video, no onboard decoder and no coaxial digital output. The Scart socket doesn't output S-video or RGB either, so that really cuts your connective options down.

OPERATION

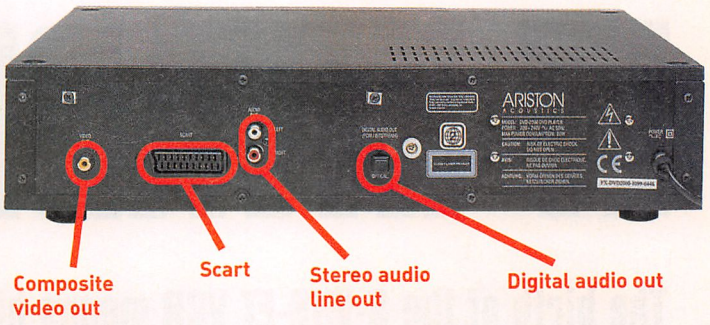
It's a shame that the DVD-2000's aesthetic appeal doesn't stretch to the remote control. It's a cheap, lightweight plastic device with no illumination, where every button is exactly the same size regardless of function. Quite how are you supposed to use the thing when watching a movie in a darkened room?

Still, turn the lights on and you've got a machine which

GUIDE PRICE: £170

ARISTON DVD-2000 HANDSET HACK

1. Switch the player on and open the DVD tray.
2. On the handset press '7', then '7', then 'Select/Enter'.
3. You are now presented with the engineer's setup menu. On this, scroll down to 'Region' and enter the zone (0-6) you require. If you go to the second page of the engineer's setup menu, you will also find an option to disable Macrovision protection.
4. When you have selected the Region, press 'Setup' and close the DVD tray.



(thanks to the limited options it offers) is remarkably easy to set up and use. The graphical user interface in the DVD-2000's setup menu is clear and user-friendly, and once you've set the usual audio and image options you're ready to play your favourite movie, regardless of regional coding.

That's right, the DVD-2000 has a built-in multi-region hack (as well as an option to turn off the Macrovision protection) to enable playback of any disc, regardless of its region. (See the box above for details of the DVD-2000's simple handset hack).

There's little else outstanding to report. Ariston provides the usual roster of fast/scan forwards and backwards, PAL/NTSC playback, user preset memory, repeat, plus x2 and x4 zoom (x2 only for SVCD and VCD).

PERFORMANCE

From a subjective standpoint, the player offers reasonable AV quality, especially given the lack of RGB and S-video. It may not be up there with the best, but the DVD-2000 does offer crisp, clear pictures.

The real test in this department came from the king of problem discs: *The Matrix*. The DVD-2000 handles this notorious disc reasonably well, playing it without problems and offering a fair image that makes the most of the green-tinted colour scheme.

Certain sequences suffer from digital shimmer, but never enough to annoy. Audio performance is another matter altogether, with horribly thin and reedy sound on offer. *The Matrix*'s soundtrack is butchered, with very little weight or range on offer. CD playback reinforces this player's lack of audio credentials, with a bright, tonally unpleasant performance.

Our lab tests hammer the final nail into this deck's audio coffin. The DVD-2000 registers a digital deviation reading of 39,137.2 picosecs (the second-worst digital deviation score ever seen by *What Video & TV*).

As the £180 Wharfedale DVD-750 had a digital deviation score of 324.8 picosecs, the Ariston deck's appalling audio performance cannot be justified by its budget price tag.

CONCLUSION

At £170, the Ariston DVD-2000 may well be the cheapest player on the market at the moment, but that is no excuse for its fatal flaws. Other similarly priced machines demonstrate far superior AV performance.

If you're tempted to go for a budget machine, do yourself a favour and spend an extra tenner on the vastly superior Wharfedale DVD-750 instead ❐

VERDICT

Even the remarkably low price can't compensate for a lacklustre AV performance

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	6/10
SOUND	3/10
FEATURES	5/10
EASE OF USE	7/10
OVERALL	5/10

KEY FEATURES
Multi-region hack
NTSC/PAL playback
Optical digital output
CD-R and VCD-compatible

WHAT'S GOOD
Multi-region playback; reasonable picture quality; price

WHAT'S BAD
Lack of connections; abysmal sound; fiddly remote

FEATURES
Multi-region hack; DVD, VCD, CD, CD-R compatible; PAL/NTSC playback; fast/scan forwards; fast/scan backwards; user preset memory; Repeat; x2 & x4 zoom (x2 only for SVCD and VCD)

SOCKETS
Rear: one Scart; composite video out; stereo phono out; optical (TOSlink) digital output

DIMENSIONS
100(h) x 430(w) x 350(d)mm

CONTACT
Richer Sounds ☎ 020 7940 2240
www.richersounds.com

TEST DATA
Jitter: 6ns (good)
Frequency response: composite video at 5.8 MHz: -13.67dB (far below average)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -57.6dB (below average)
Chroma AM/PM: -65.1/-65.1dB (good/good)
Digital Deviation: 39,137.2 picosecs (awful)

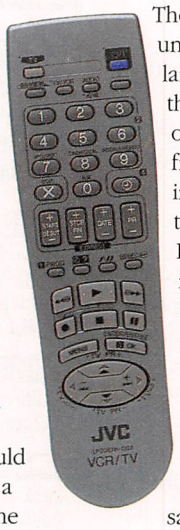
JVC HR-S7700 S-VHS-ET VCR

ET INVADES UK

The birth of the S-VHS-ET VCR means high-band recordings from low-band tapes. The format is set to hit the UK next month in the guise of JVC's £330 HR-S7700. David Murphy takes an exclusive look at this ground-breaking technology

Super VHS aficionados, though they may be few in number, will tell you that the format wipes the floor with regular VHS, even for off-air recordings. The only problem is that blank S-VHS tapes cost a lot more than regular VHS tapes.

So JVC's S-VHS-ET system looks great on paper, enabling Super VHS recordings to be made on VHS cassettes. After JVC's initiative to drive down the price of S-VHS two years ago, could ET be the second half of a strategy to finally make the format a household name?



DESCRIPTION

The S7700 is a neat-looking piece of kit, the silver finish hinting at the deck's upmarket credentials, with NTSC playback, indexing and edit facilities.

The front panel is uncluttered, with just a large jog/shuttle dial to the right and a smattering of controls, plus concealed front-panel inputs, including S-video, to the left.

Rear-panel socketry includes twin Scarts, S-video and audio-out, plus a Pause jack for synchro editing with JVC camcorders, and a sat-control jack. At long last, JVC seems to have embraced the world of satellite control.

The remote is neat too. For years, JVC's higher-spec decks have come with a large, cumbersome remote control. The slimmed-down version supplied with this year's model is most welcome.

OPERATION

The auto install system does its stuff in around 3min and stores the channels in the correct order. If your set is compatible with T-V Link, you can download channels directly into the VCR from the TV via Scart.

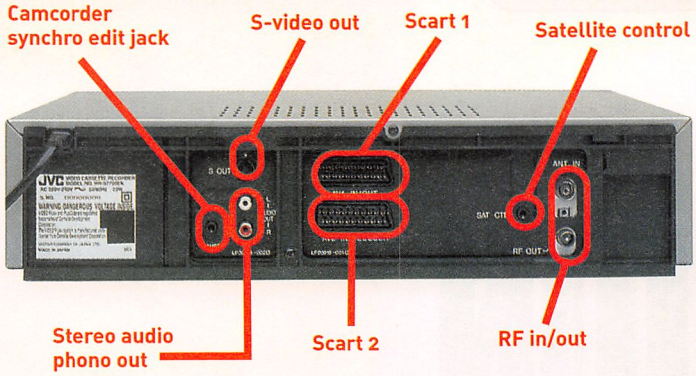
While this may be simple, knowing whether it's possible in the first place is more of a challenge, as every manufacturer has chosen a different name for this functionality. If your TV bears the legend: NexTView Link, MegaLogic, Easy Link, Smartlink, DATALOGIC or Q-Link, it should work.

Most of what the deck can do is controlled via the menu system. Three of the menus – Auto Channel Set, Manual Channel Set and Output/Input Set – are of the 'set-and-forget' variety. Once you have tuned in channels and decided what sort of signal (composite or S-video) you want the two Scarts to receive and the first Scart to output, you won't have to bother with them again.

The most important menu is Mode Set, where you can switch a number of functions off or on. These include: the B.E.S.T. (Biconditional Equalized Tracking System) tape optimizer; power save, which cuts electricity consumption in Standby mode, and Digital 3R, designed to improve detail resolution.

The final menu, Initial Set, is significant for one feature: satellite control. For years, JVC has ignored satellite control, offering only a half-baked version in the shape of its Record Link facility.

GUIDE PRICE: £330



Finally, it has joined most of the rest of the VCR world in offering full control over satellite receivers. Owners of the S7700 can timeshift from different satellite channels without having to change channels manually or set a second event timer on the decoder. Better late than never.

The procedure for setting up satellite control is straightforward. First, plug the infrared transmitter which sends out the control signals into the back of the VCR. Then fix the emitter in place somewhere close to the satellite or cable box.

> **"ET recordings are sharp and clean"**

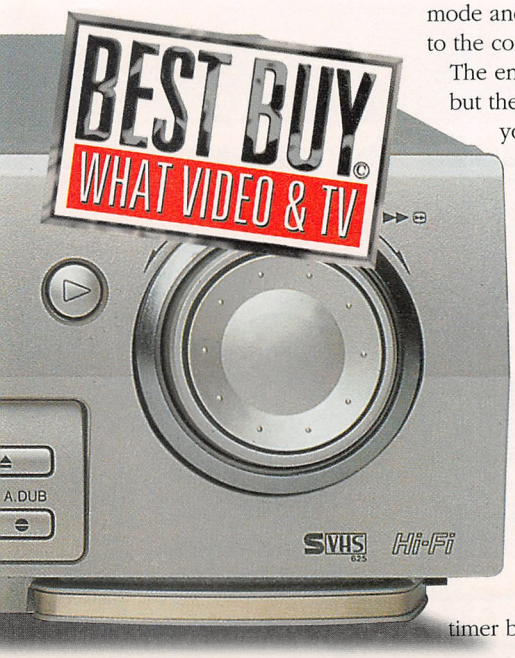
Next, switch the satbox on, select a test channel number you want the VCR to switch it to, and enter the relevant code for your make of receiver until the VCR sends out the right signal. The manual lists 29 makes of satellite box, including all the major brands, though ONdigital, Sky digital and digital cable decoders are not covered.

Some satellite-control VCRs require you to map the position of satellite channels you want to record at the outset, but the S7700 does it on the fly. The first time you program a timer recording from satellite, you have to enter the channel number (where that channel is stored on your satellite receiver).

Then the next time you enter a PlusCode relating to that channel, the VCR knows which channel to switch to. Strangely, JVC hasn't realised that you can do this, because the procedure described in the manual is merely a slight advancement of its old Record Link facility.

If you follow the manual, you won't set the timer on your VCR to record from satellite. Instead, you have to set the timer on your satellite receiver. At the appointed hour, the VCR switches itself into timer record mode and switches the satbox to the correct channel.

The end result is the same, but the process by which you get there is more complicated than it needs to be. Our advice, unless you are familiar with your satellite receiver's timer system: ignore the manual and set the VCR's timer, as it's much simpler. Programming with VideoPlus is simple, as is the manual timer programming system. And we're pleased to report that the S7700 warns you if two timer blocks clash or overlap.



To record in S-VHS-ET mode on a VHS cassette, just hit the ET button on the VCR's fascia before starting recording.

PERFORMANCE

Even in VHS mode, the S7700 serves up reasonable pictures, though Super VHS recordings are sharper and cleaner, with more fine detail resolution, minimal dot crawl or colour smearing. Even the LP S-VHS picture is perfectly watchable.

We made S-VHS-ET (on VHS tape) and 'pure' S-VHS recordings of some DV footage. The ET recordings stood comparison with the pure S-VHS recording, though pure S-VHS had a very slight edge. The ET recording looks sharp and clean, but there is a tiny bit more grain than on the S-VHS recording.

Whether this can be attributed to a minuscule quality gap between S-VHS ET and pure S-VHS, or to a difference in quality between VHS and S-VHS blanks is a moot point.

With the Digital 3R circuitry and the B.E.S.T. tape optimiser onboard, there are countless permutations of picture flavours on the S7700. In our tests however, pictures looked equally good with any combination of 3R and B.E.S.T. on or off.

Edit performance is good enough for all but the most serious use. Inserts and audio dubs are clean at both ends, though inserted footage consistently comes in six frames early and exits four frames late.

The audio performance is excellent, with good bass and real definition in the high frequencies. Just two black marks: the lack of manual recording level control, and the fact that the VCR is a little noisy in operation.

CONCLUSION

On this showing, the differences between S-VHS-ET and true S-VHS are so minimal as to warrant using the S7700 permanently in ET mode, thus saving yourself a few quid on the tapes. In other respects, save for the sat-control cockup, it's a winner too. We like it a lot ❐

VERDICT

Judging by this deck, JVC is onto another winner with its innovative S-VHS-ET system

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	8/10
FEATURES	9/10
EASE OF USE	9/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES
Super VHS-ET
Satellite control
VideoPlus & PDC
T-V Link

WHAT'S GOOD
Picture and sound quality; price; S-VHS-ET; ease of use

WHAT'S BAD
Sat-control system misses the point; operation noise; number of timer recordings flashes after the event

FEATURES
Auto install; Nicam and hi-fi stereo sound; B.E.S.T. (Biconditional Equalized Tracking System); digital timebase corrector; Digital 3R picture system; VideoPlus & PDC; satellite control; twin speed; trick play; VHS indexing; NTSC playback (in stereo); insert edit; audio dub; T-V Link

SOCKETS
Front: phono audio and video; S-video in
Rear: two Scarts with second Scart loopthrough; S-video output; phono audio line output; RF (aerial) in and out; satellite control emitter jack; pause (synchro editing) jack

DIMENSIONS
400(w) x 94(h) x 330(d)mm

WEIGHT
3.5kg

CONTACTS
JVC ☎ 020 8450 3282
www.jvc.co.uk

TEST DATA
VHS mode:
Resolution: 240 lines
Dynamic range: good
Grain: slight

S-VHS-ET mode:
Resolution: approaching 400 lines
Dynamic range: fair/good
Grain: slight

S-VHS mode:
Resolution: 400 lines
Dynamic range: excellent
Grain: none

MIRACULOUS CONVERSION

Do you have friends/relatives/business associates abroad? Want to send them a videotape? If so, Lektropacks' £700 standards-converting VCR is just the job. Martin Pipe puts the MCV-3 through its paces

Television standards vary from country to country, and are incompatible with one another. Here in the UK we use 625-line PAL, which is rather different to the 525-line NTSC system enjoyed by our Japanese and US friends.

Play a US tape on your VCR and – unless the machine is NTSC-compatible – you'll be rewarded by a televisual snowstorm. Closer in flavour to the UK standard is the 625-line Secam system commonly encountered in France and Eastern Europe.

Here, you'll get a watchable picture from tapes, albeit one rendered in black and white. Broadcasters have dealt with this standards lark for years, using expensive hardware. The Lektropacks MCV-1, tested in the March '99 edition of *What Video & TV* (p56), offered consumers a solution to this irritating problem.

Essentially, the MCV-1 was a hi-fi VCR that incorporated a 'scaled-down' converter. It could play tapes from all around the world, converting them into the UK (PAL 625) video system so that they were compatible with domestic equipment.

The MCV-1 would also make foreign-standard dubs from PAL sources, and produce PAL recordings from NTSC sources (such as R1 DVD and laser disc). The MCV-1's standards converter also happened to 'crack' the Macrovision copy protection system as an unusual side-effect.

Although the MCV-1 wasn't the first of its kind – as Panasonic and Samsung will tell you – it was certainly the cheapest. Lektropacks is now consolidating its value-for-money lead by introducing an improved version of the MCV-1. The MCV-3 adds more features, but sells for the same price.

DESCRIPTION

In terms of styling, the MCV-3 is very similar to its illustrious predecessor. To the right of the centrally located tape slot are the tape transport controls, arranged in a circular fashion. Annoyingly, there's no pause control on the deck. This function is only available on the remote, which is frustrating when you're making clean edits between recordings. Under the tape slot are buttons for selecting the input and output TV standards. There are also Eject/power buttons, and a host of LEDs to indicate various operating modes. One mode which appears here is LP, a welcome improvement on the MCV-1, which only offered SP.

With the MCV-3, you can now record at the slower speed and get more material onto a single

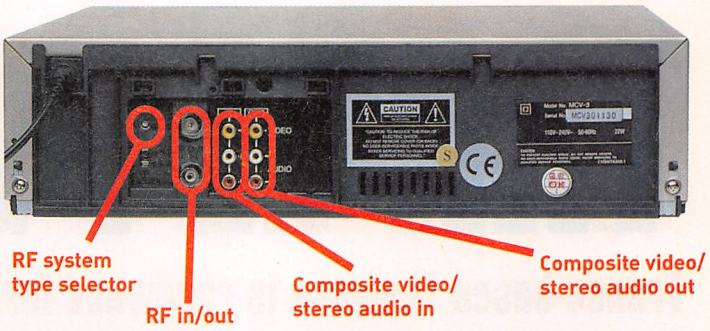
GUIDE PRICE: £700

tape, thereby reducing postage costs. But you don't get hi-fi sound with LP pictures – they're mono-only. We're rather more impressed with Lektropacks' decision to include a multi-standard UHF modulator, so that the MCV-3 can be hooked up to a TV without an AV input.

Sadly, the modulator is incompatible with the UK PAL-I system, and fails to deliver sound. The MCV-3, like the MCV-1, doesn't have a tuner (or timer) and hence cannot timeshift programmes.

indicate transport mode. It's thus impossible to find the end of a recorded section, or see how much tape is left. At the very least, we would like to have seen an onscreen display of time-related functions.

There is a simple index search facility to guide you around recordings. Other playback features are sparse, and accessible only through the handset. There's manual override of tracking, selection of soundtrack (SP only), and still frame/still advance buttons.



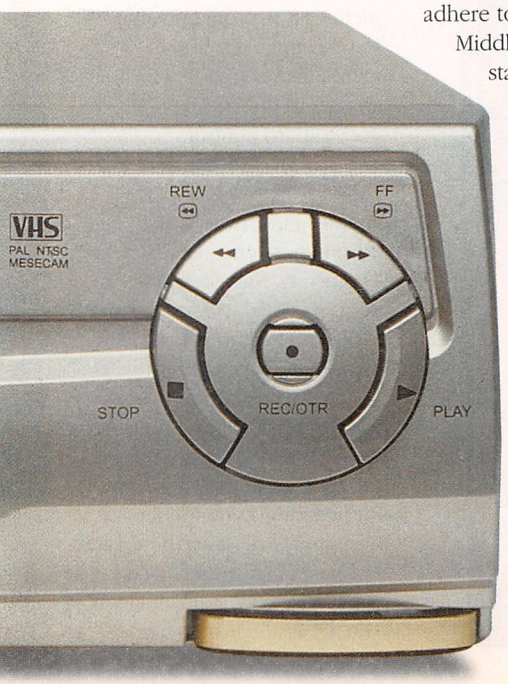
"Recordings from a DVD source yield sharp pictures with vivid colour"

Lektropacks is, however, planning a more advanced model with full LP recording and tuner. Although there's an aerial input, it's simply looped through to the output for ease of installation.

Nestling alongside the aerial connectors are the AV inputs and outputs. These are phonos, rather than Euro-specific Scarts.

OPERATION

Something that Lektropacks hasn't improved is the poor tape navigation, as there's no tape counter display. Instead, all you get are flashing LEDs that



The MCV-3 will automatically sense the standard of the tape being played, or the video signal being applied to its input, and set itself up accordingly. A pair of buttons on the front panel allow the output standard to be manually selected.

In addition to standard PAL, Secam and NTSC, the MCV-3 will also cope with the pseudo-PAL (PAL-M) and NTSC 4.43 signals produced by some equipment. Although the MCV-3's converter is Secam-compatible, its VCR section is slightly less flexible.

It will, according to Lektropacks, play Secam tapes from France, but recordings adhere to the incompatible Middle Eastern variant of the standard (ME-Secam). There's also playback compatibility with ME-Secam, making this unit an ideal choice for those with Arabic relations. One nice touch is the colour-bar generator, which is automatically invoked if there's no video input present.

PERFORMANCE

Much of the MCV-3's VCR side is built around Panasonic technology, but the standards-converter is sourced from CYP. You may not have heard of this Taiwan-based company, but it produces most of the world's consumer-level standards converters.

The latest version of CYP's equivalent standalone converter keeps the digital circuitry switched in, even if the selected input and output standards are identical. The MCV-1, conversely, would switch to a bypass mode.

The MCV-3's approach has both pluses and minuses. The good news is that the standards converter's digital circuitry acts as a timebase corrector, so you'll get stable copies regardless of the video standard.

The bad news is that there are noticeable artefacts. Although the loss in resolution and colour smearing are lost on VHS recordings, a certain degree of motion 'judder' and background patterning aren't. However, the patterning largely disappears when converting between NTSC and PAL, although the judder becomes more noticeable.

In other respects, recordings are of a high standard. PAL and NTSC recordings from a DVD source yield sharp pictures with vivid colour. The contrast range is fair, although some background and edge grain is apparent. Search modes and stills are rather poor, with noticeable noise bands.

We could find no fault with the MCV-3's hi-fi audio system. It's dynamic and clean, and conveys a vivid Pro-Logic soundstage when fed to an AV system.

CONCLUSION

The MCV-3 lacks some standard conveniences, such as a tape counter or hi-fi LP recording. Nevertheless, you're unlikely to better this deck in terms of value for money. If you simply want to transfer your recordings onto tapes of a different TV standard, then it will fit the bill very well ❐

VERDICT

If you run a camcorder club, or simply enjoy trading tapes with like-minded folks abroad, this deck should be on your shopping list

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	8/10
SOUND	8/10
FEATURES	6/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	8/10

KEY FEATURES
Multi-standard
Digital standards converter
SP hi-fi sound
Index search

WHAT'S GOOD
Attractive price; performance

WHAT'S BAD
No tape counter, hi-fi LP sound or true Secam recording

FEATURES
Recording/playback and conversion between PAL, PAL 60 (M), NTSC 3.58, NTSC 4.43 and (ME-) Secam tapes and/or video sources; 4Mbit conversion memory; hi-fi sound; LP with mono sound; index search; in-built colour-bar generator; OTR; auto/manual tracking; still pause/frame advance/picture search

SOCKETS
Phono AV in; phono AV out

DIMENSIONS
380(w) x 100(h) x 297(d)mm

CONTACT
Lektropacks ☎ 020 8572 9737
www.lektropacks.co.uk

TEST DATA
Resolution: 740 lines
Dynamic range: fair
Grain: fair

THOMSON SCENIUM RANGE | TV/VCR/DVD player

TRIPLE PLAY

France-based Thomson is renowned for the Gallic flair of its products. With its Scenium range, it incorporates a TV, VCR and DVD into one sleek package. Jim Hill looks behind the gorgeous facade

We often hear the words 'lifestyle' and 'television' in the same sentence, and not because TV plays such an important role in the modern lifestyle. In this context 'lifestyle' means an unobtrusive or aesthetically satisfying design.

A 32in TV is always going to intrude to a certain extent, but the new breed of lifestyle TVs at least try and blend into their surroundings. Thomson's Scenium employs slick designer looks and matching components in an attempt to be chic and unobtrusive.

France-based manufacturer Thomson is renowned for its handsome hardware, recruiting the talents of design guru Phillipe Starck as art director, and thinking of its products more as lounge furniture than generic boxes of electronics.

The Scenium range makes a refreshing change from the grey/black conformity of the competition, but beauty is only skin deep and counts for little if AV performance isn't up to scratch.

The TV, VCR and DVD player can be bought separately, but dealers will sell the complete package at a discounted price. There are also a few features that make the Scenium range work particularly well together.

Each component comes with an extraordinarily tactile remote control, and each one will control the whole system. The TV remote sports backlit illuminated buttons and allows zoom control of the picture. It is programmable too – simply key in the manufacturer's code which applies to the component you want to control.

Using an RGB Scart to connect the TV and VCR enables information such as onscreen menus, teletext and Thomson's Naviclick system to be transmitted. Also, once the VCR's auto setup is complete, it will automatically set the TV.

The package comes complete with an MDF cabinet housing the VCR and DVD player, with room to spare for Thomson's forthcoming AV amplifier. Cunningly built into the cabinet is a pair of surround speakers and a four-way mains adapter. The TV is all clean, straight

GUIDE PRICE: £1,200 (TV)

SCENIUM 32WF64E TV (£1,200)

lines with a cool, blue panel surrounding the 32in (diagonally), 16:9 aspect ratio screen. If blue isn't your colour you can choose from silver, black or red. The screen itself is absolutely flat too – not flat like the FST screens, (which are actually slightly curved), but truly flat.

> *"A strikingly lucid and colourful picture"*

AV connections lurk behind a flap on the front of the set for stereo audio, composite video and S-video input, plus three Scart connections at the back, the first of which will carry an RGB signal, while all will carry an S-video signal. A second front flap reveals some basic TV controls in case the remote goes astray.

OPERATION

The Scenium offers the obligatory auto install, although it doesn't places channels into their correct order. Otherwise, features and settings are accessible through user-friendly, onscreen menus and the cursor keys on the remote control.

The zapper is praiseworthy, as it's capable of learning and controlling up to four components with a sensible and uncluttered button layout.

Also available is picture-in-picture (PIP or POP), which overlays up to three other programs or AV inputs at the side of the screen. You can also call up the channel guide window (more later) or freeze a picture and keep it as a PIP insert.

Zoom controls on the remote allow you to alter the image size to fill the screen for 4:3 programmes. This is done by intelligent line interpolation to avoid squashing or squeezing the image too much.

Additional features include an Ambient Sensor, which detects the level of ambient light in the room and automatically adjusts the contrast to suit, an ECO switch that turns the set off after a period of time, plus a timer.

PERFORMANCE

Sticking with the factory settings to begin with, the picture is strikingly lucid and colourful, with a palette of vivid but well-contained colours. Edge definition is precise and resolution of detail from all sources is high.

Convergence is dead-on, and thanks to the 100Hz scanning, there is no discernible flicker. Motion Mastering makes movement look more natural, reduces noise on areas of bad reception and expands contrast to enhance dark areas of the screen.

Two 20W speakers behind the grilles either side of the screen deliver Nicam stereo or Virtual Dolby Surround with backup from a 40W sub. Their performance is less impressive than the image, as Nicam stereo sounds a little dull, lifeless and lacking in dynamics. Virtual Dolby Surround adds depth, but it's unconvincing and no substitute for Dolby Pro-Logic or Dolby Digital.

There are further sound modes to enhance stereo and mono playback, but without rear speakers, the surround modes fall flat. Thomson is the first to agree that a set this size calls for external speakers and amplification. It has, sensibly, put the emphasis on picture quality instead.

CONCLUSION

This handsome set is backed up by luxurious picture quality and a raft of useful features. It's a pity the sound is mediocre, but that won't be a problem for anyone intending to use an external AV amplifier.

VERDICT

Gorgeous looks and luscious images easily outweigh disappointing sound

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	7/10
FEATURES	8/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES
32in 16:9 display
Totally flat screen
Virtual Dolby Surround

WHAT'S GOOD
Luxurious picture quality; totally flat screen; lifestyle design

WHAT'S BAD
Inadequate sound

FEATURES
32in 16:9 display; Virtual Dolby Surround; PIP; zoom; five sound modes; multi-brand remote; two 20W front speakers; 40W subwoofer

SOCKETS
Front: phono AV-in with composite video and S-video; headphone jack
Rear: three Scarts (one RGB and three S-video)

TEST DATA
Frequency response: clear to 5.8MHz
Geometry: perfect
Convergence: very good
Colour separation: good

VPH7090 VCR (€280)

Thomson's Scenium VCR looks a worthy partner for the TV in its complimentary silver livery and elegant styling. It also sports all the features you would expect of a top-flight machine, plus a few extras. The controls are hidden on the other side of the front panel, so that when it swings down they are facing you.

Thomson was clearly thinking about its own Digital Video products while designing the VPH7090, as there are numerous editing functions and camcorder inputs present. Behind the front panel is a set of audio and composite video inputs alongside a synch out to link with a camcorder.

Above that are two headphone sockets, while around the back can be found two Scarts, an additional composite video input/output and stereo audio inputs and outputs.

OPERATION

The VPH7090 boasts standard features such as Auto setup, LP record, onscreen display and VideoPlus, as well as a few interesting ones. This machine can play S-VHS cassettes, outputting the S-video signal to a TV and is PAL, NTSC and Secam-compatible.

The Chroma Pro II system uses an arrangement of six heads. The audio dubbing, video synching and editing features will be a real boon for camcorder owners. The controls on the front flap are unusually large and spread out, which is a big help when carrying out complicated editing tasks. Combined with the comprehensive remote control, logical onscreen graphics and excellent Naviclick system (see box for details), this complicated machine is relatively simple to operate.

PERFORMANCE

The VPH7090's SP picture is rock-steady, with a rich warmth to the colours and good line definition. Its recordings are remarkably faithful too, reproducing detail with a high degree of accuracy.

However, there is a little degradation in sound quality and pre-recorded tapes can sound a tad brittle through a revealing surround sound system.

CONCLUSION

This is one classy VCR, and clever too. Picture and sound are of the high quality we would expect from a machine at this price, but the connectivity and excellent Naviclick system are a real bonus. It's good to see some innovation in the VHS market for a change.

VERDICT

Competent AV performance married to innovative features

THOMSON'S NAVICLICK SYSTEM

This system is a real breakthrough. After installation the VCR waits until 8.00am the next morning, when it awakens and runs through all the available teletext pages to find out what programmes are on that day. It then stores the information on a flash memory card so that you can call it up at leisure.

This gives you a handy TV guide and also makes programmes fantastically easy to record. Simply run through the broadcast schedules, highlighting anything you want to record. It not only records up to eight programmes per day, but labels and timecodes each one, storing the data in its memory. When you play the tape, the VCR will recognise it and display its contents.

It will even tell you which cassette the programme you are looking for is on, then locate the start. Brilliant.

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	7/10
FEATURES	9/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	8/10

KEY FEATURES

Nicam
Six heads
VideoPlus
Naviclick
S-VHS playback

FEATURES

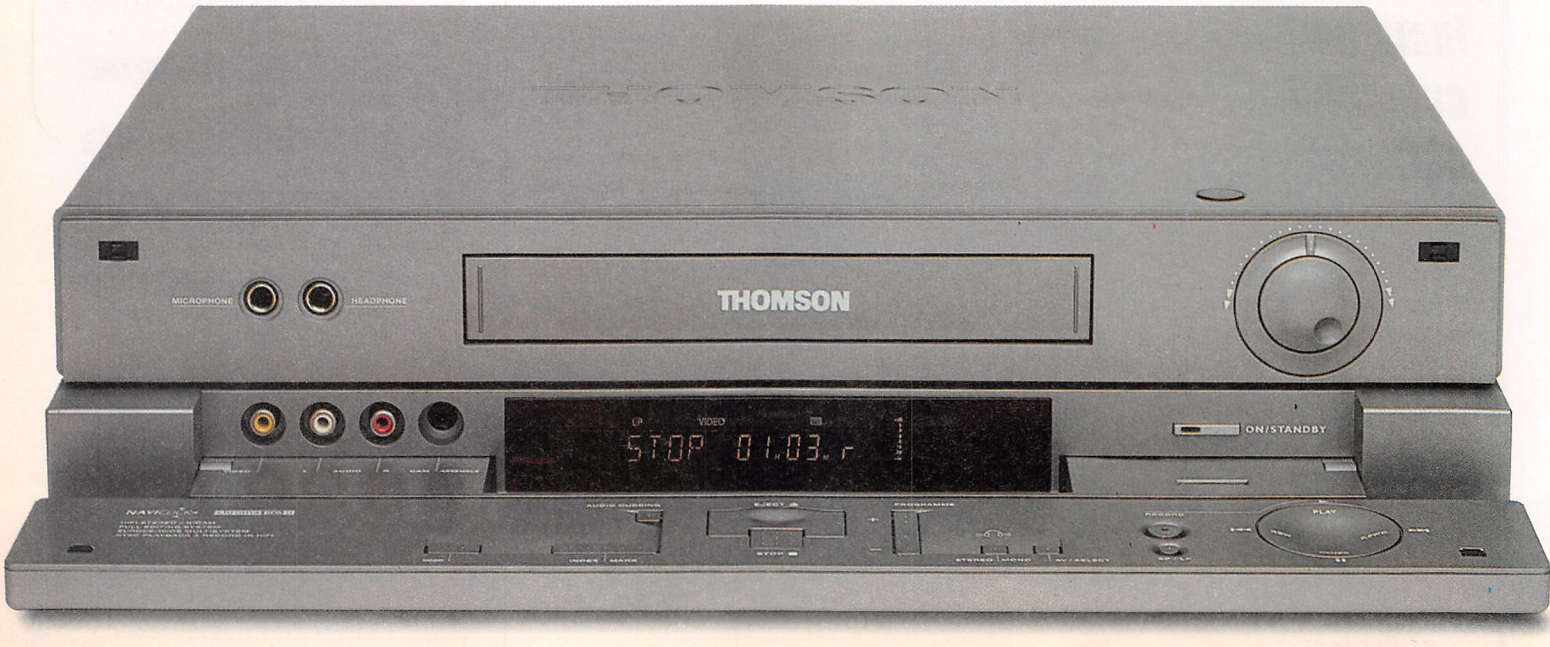
Onscreen menu; NTSC/PAL/Secam compatibility; auto setup; camcorder input

SOCKETS

Front: AV inputs; two headphone sockets
Rear: two Scarts; composite video & stereo audio & RF aerial in/out

TEST DATA

Resolution: 245 lines
Dynamic range: good
Grain: fair



GUIDE PRICE: £380 (DVD), £280 (VCR)

DTH-3600 DVD PLAYER (£380)

We have already taken a good look at this DVD player – see the September '99 issue of *What Video & TV* (p66), when we discovered it to be a Samsung deck with a makeover by Thomson. It certainly looks all the better for its brushed aluminium fascia and the build quality is reassuring.

The DTH-3600 is equipped with a built-in Dolby Digital decoder and sports S-video and composite video outputs, coaxial/optical digital outputs and stereo audio outputs.

OPERATION

The player comes with the same kind of 'organic' remote control as the rest of this Thomson range, with extensive backlighting and TV control.

This DTS-compatible deck has all the expected speaker setup options. One disappointment for users of 96kHz/24-bit DVD music is that this player downsamples to 48kHz.

Other features include black level alteration (though not in RGB), audio dynamic range compression, NTSC playback in PAL60, audio playback during 2x picture scan and 4x picture zoom.

> **"Useful features and excellent build quality"**

PERFORMANCE

The DTH-3600 sports a 3D-Surround feature, which is relatively successful, while in full, bona fide surround operation, the front soundfield is excellent. The rear effects are somewhat lacklustre, missing the intense wraparound feel we've come to expect from DVD soundtracks.

In terms of picture performance, the DTH-3600 is competent but unexceptional. Colour containment is OK, but detail rendition is more impressive. The opening scenes of *Contact* (R2 DVD) are well etched, with realistic textures and skin tones.

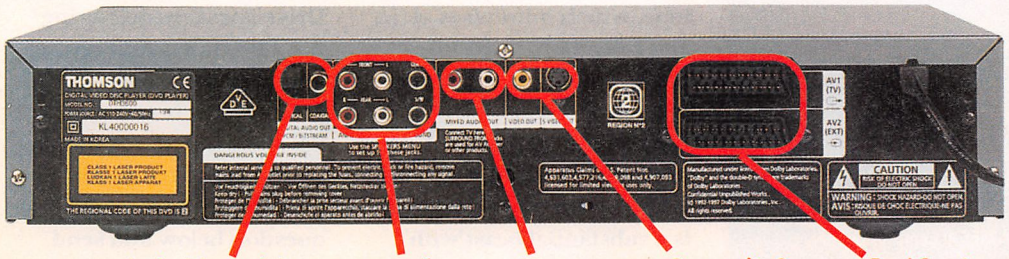
And, while the DTH-3600 also measures reasonably well in our test lab, subjectively the picture quality lacks the sort of visual snap that's only really noticeable by its absence.

CONCLUSION

Below-par performance and average facilities don't quite add up in the fiercely competitive DVD arena, but the DTH-3600 is OK in a Scenium setup ❐

VERDICT

Not exactly a sensation but OK when used as a component in an all-Scenium setup



SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	7/10
SOUND	7/10
FEATURES	8/10
EASE OF USE	7/10
OVERALL	7/10

KEY FEATURES
Dolby Digital Decoder
DTS-compatible
Multi-brand remote control

WHAT'S GOOD
Range of facilities; remote; build quality

WHAT'S BAD
Unspectacular picture and sound quality

FEATURES
Dolby Digital Decoder; DTS-compatible; NTSC playback; Virtual 3D Surround; 2x & 4x zoom

SOCKETS
AV-out (two Scarts and phono); S-video out (mini-DIN); digital out (coaxial and optical); 5.1-channel outputs

DIMENSIONS
430(w) x 89(h) x 280(d)mm

WEIGHT
3.4kg

TEST DATA
Video jitter: 3ns (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio: -71.3dB (good)
Chroma AM/PM: -61.6dB/-63.1dB (average)
Chroma crosstalk: -52.3dB (average)
Frequency response at 5.8MHz (composite): -8.22dB (very good); (S-video): -8.93 dB (very good)
Digital deviation: 977.9 picosecs (average)

WIN A SONY 36IN DRC WEGA TV WORTH £2,500

Sony's KV-36FS70 is the first TV available in the UK to use the company's new Digital Reality Creation Multi Function (DRC-MF) technology. DRC-MF employs a proprietary digital signal-processing algorithm to create four times more picture density than the original picture source, effectively producing a high-resolution signal directly from a standard television signal. The new system also displays moving pictures naturally and smoothly for an even more realistic picture, taking television to previously unattained realms.

The KV-36FS70 has two DRC modes: DRC50 and DRC100. DRC50 employs a unique real-time processor that improves picture resolution by 400 per cent. It creates double the number of scanning lines (1,250 from 625), and doubles the number of horizontal pixels (1,440 from 720) of a standard television signal.

DRC100 mode employs a field-doubling technology that maintains 625 vertical interlaced scanning lines, while doubling the number of horizontal pixels to 1,440. DRC100 offers a flicker-free option for stable images with smooth movement that are much gentler on the eyes.

Naturally, the KV-36FS70 sports Sony's acclaimed FD Trinitron WEGA wide picture tube, which minimises glare and reflection, maximises image contrast and delivers top-notch image clarity.

Weighing-in at 90kg and measuring 972(w) x 613.5(h) x 591(d)mm, the KV-36FS70 is a substantial beast with features to match. These include digital comb filter, noise detection, two tuners, SmartLink, auto standby, auto tuning system, auto 16:9, autowide and 14:9 modes, dynamic channel index, dynamic picture-and-picture, dynamic picture and text, automatic channel installation, auto labelling, auto sorting, parental lock and one-button tuning.

Connectivity includes three AV Scarts, front AV inputs, front S-video in and rear phono out. The KV-36FS70 is no slouch in the audio department either, with a built-in Dolby Pro-Logic True Surround System, plus Dual Drive speakers delivering 2 x 25W (L/R), 20W centre and 10W surround.

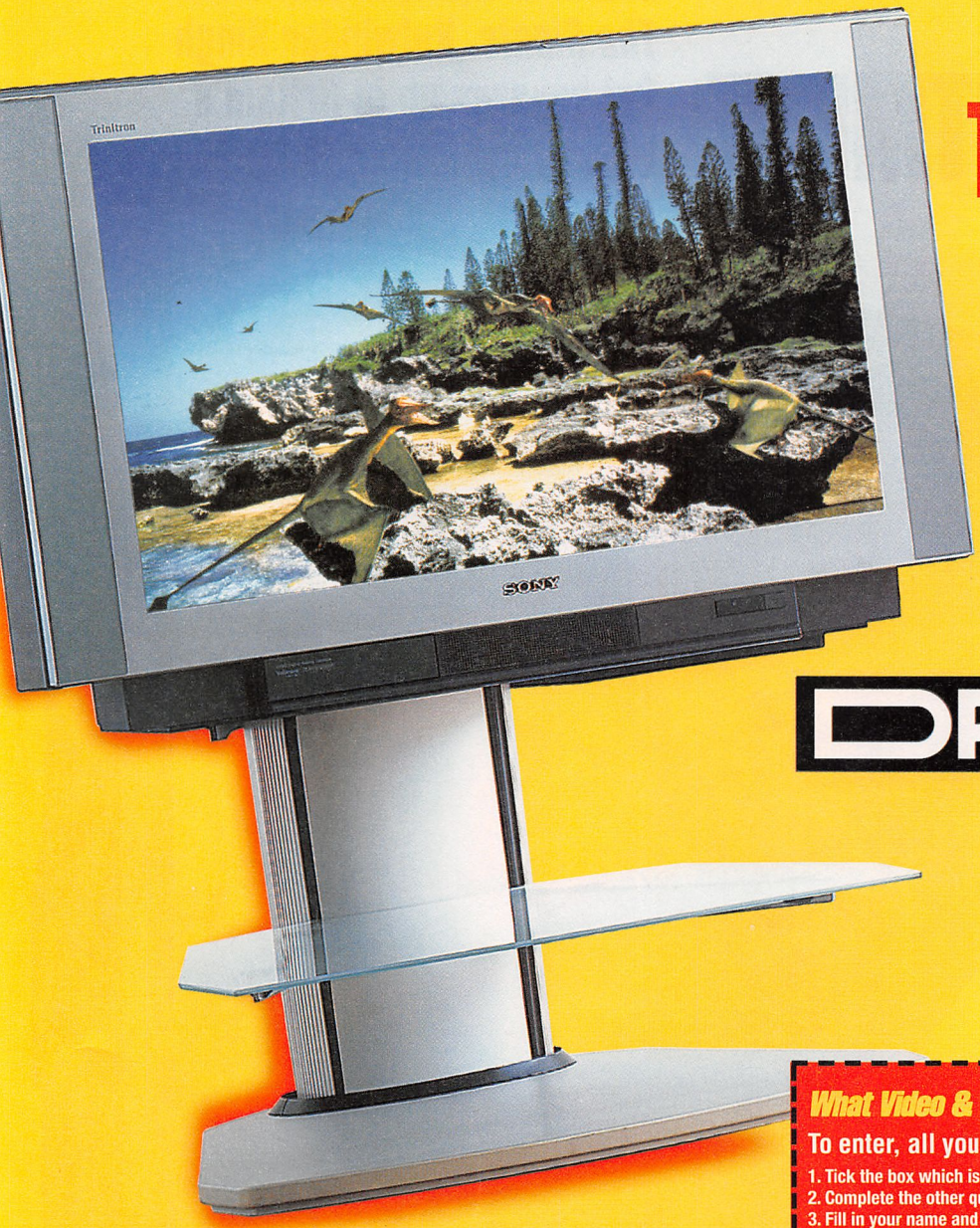
To see just how good the KV-36FS70 is, check out the review on p22. And to win one, simply answer the question below and send your entry form to arrive not later than May 3 2000.

RULES OF ENTRY

1. The editor's decision is final
2. There are no cash substitutes
3. Employees of WV Publications and Sony are not eligible to enter
4. Photocopies of the entry form are acceptable
5. Only one entry per household please
6. Closing date May 3 2000
7. No purchase necessary. Entry forms can be collected from WV Publications, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU

Please note: entries must be addressed 'Sony KV-36FS70 comp' to qualify

etition



Two of these superb sets must be won!

SONY

DRC-MF

FD Trinitron

WEGA

Contact Sony on ☎ 0990 111999

THE QUESTION

The KV-36FS70 uses Sony's DRC technology. What does DRC stand for?

A: Digital Reality Creation

B: Digital Relations Committee

C: Delicious Roasted Chestnuts

What Video & TV Sony KV-36FS70 TV Competition

CLOSING DATE: MAY 3

To enter, all you have to do is:

1. Tick the box which is the correct answer to the following question
2. Complete the other questions which tell us a bit more about you
3. Fill in your name and address
4. Post the coupon to 'Sony KV-36FS70 comp', *What Video & TV*, WV Publications, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

Please tick any of these that you own

- Home computer ☐
- Cable/satellite ☐
- CD/video ☐
- Credit card ☐

Please tick your age group

- under 35 ☐
- 35-50 ☐
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HUGE DISAPPOINTMENT

Toshiba's £3,500 61in colossus could be a prop from *Land Of The Giants*. Kulwinder Singh Rai squares up to Britain's biggest consumer TV

For sheer gob-smacking scale there's nothing to touch a front projector, but they're a pain to use in anything but semi/total darkness. You certainly wouldn't want to fire up a front projector at 9am just to watch *BBC Breakfast News*. Rear-projection CRT sets are much more practical, as modern examples have sufficient contrast and illumination levels to be used in all but the brightest of conditions.

But wouldn't it be nice if you could have both gargantuan scale and convenience? Well, guess what? You can, with Toshiba's Herculean 61PJ98B, Britain's biggest consumer TV.

DESCRIPTION

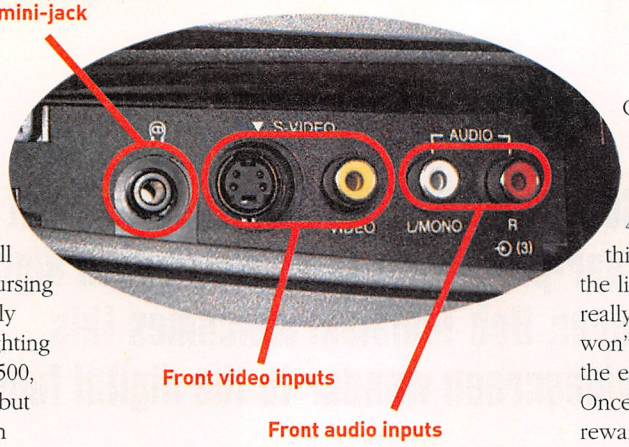
If you've got a photographic memory and mugged up on the Toshiba 50PJ98B review back in the Feb '00 issue (p78), skip this section and the next and go straight to the Performance bit. That's because, aside from sheer acreage, there's no discernible difference between the two sets when it comes to features, facilities and looks.

Still here? OK, let's go for an abbreviated round-up of what's on offer. The clever styling rather speaks for itself, giving the otherwise box-like exterior a more friendly aspect, with sweeping curves apparent in all the places you'd expect to see brutal corners.

Front-mounted AV inputs join a trio of Scarts at the rear, but only one of them can handle high-quality RGB video. This is clearly an unsatisfactory situation if you've got a DVD player as well as access to digital TV, both of which can output RGB.

If your audio upgrading plans include adding a subwoofer plus external left/right speakers, terrific – the 61PJ98B has the outputs to meet your needs. If you want to add anything else, you're stuffed.

GUIDE PRICE: £3,500



OPERATION

The cursor-driven onscreen menu system is blindingly simple to fathom, but you'll probably end up cursing the remote. Not only does it lack backlighting (inexcusable at £2,500, never mind £3.5k) but it can't control even Tosh's own DVD players. What on earth is the company thinking of?

The convergence control for the CRTs is simple enough, but where's the automatic convergence facility? If competing Hitachi and (shortly) Sony sets can provide it, Tosh ought to be able to follow suit, especially given this set's flagship status.

A couple of words about the 61PJ98B's extra audio DSP modes – wholly unconvincing. Hope that's clear enough.

PERFORMANCE

Let's leave aside picture quality for a second. What we find really, really laughable is that this 61in TV – and let's re-stress that mammoth dimension at every available opportunity – features exactly the same sound system as the 50in version. Same power outputs, same pair of full-range drivers parked in the set, same crappy rear speakers.

Any punters shelling out three-and-a-half big ones for Britain's biggest TV will be mighty irritated to discover that, at £1,000 more than the 50in version, its sound system was exactly the same.

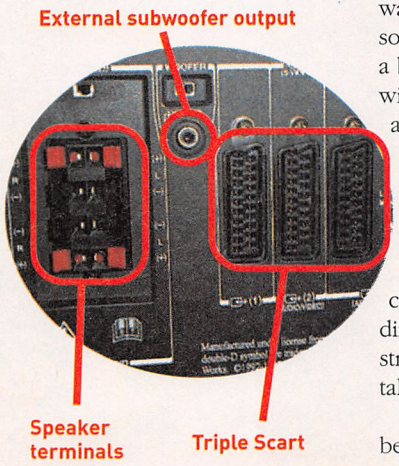
At this price we'd expect more watts, bigger and better driver units (hell, maybe even bass and treble drivers instead of a full-range unit), a real subwoofer – as opposed to a dodgy electronic pseudo-compromise – plus a separate centre-channel driver.

None of the above would apply if the 50in set's sound system was spectacularly good, but sadly it's not. It is loud enough but it's also thoroughly weak-willed, lacking in clarity, bass punch and focus. If this was your first brush with Dolby Digital you'd wonder what all the fuss was about.

"Sonics are weak-willed, lacking clarity, bass punch and focus"

Yes, you can add external left and right speakers to widen the front soundstage, but switching the internal left/right speakers into centre-channel mode is a poor compromise. And don't even get us started on those joke-shop rear speakers or the lack of a proper sub.

You've got the idea, the sound system's woefully inadequate. What about the picture quality? Like its 50in sibling, things are altogether more promising here, but once again the 61PJ98B is outshone by the smaller set in all the most important areas.



Caveat one is that as an absolute minimum, you'll need to get at least 4-4.5m away from this set. Any closer and the line structure gets really obvious, so you won't be able to focus on the entire screen image. Once in position, you'll be rewarded with a scale of image that has few equals, plus a superb standard of colour reproduction. With solid blacks and rich reds this set definitely pushes all the right buttons in that department.

But while colour rendition is pure, there's an inherent coarseness in the resulting images that's renders line structure much more noticeable. And it's impossible to ignore once you've seen the vastly superior 50in variant.

Whether it's leading edges of objects represented on screen or the lettering when credits begin to roll, the tendency is evident across the board. Bad news.

Contrast levels are also less impressive, and the image lacks the astounding 'reach out and touch' feel of that cooked up by the 50in version.

Viewing angle limitations are similar to the smaller set – a steep drop-off in visibility when you get up but a wide lateral spread to make up for it. Just right for a session down the Dog and Duck, in fact.

CONCLUSION

Britain's biggest TV is a good 'un, but it really is a set best watched with a pint of something cold in hand and a busty barmaid close by. We wish we could also say that it's a prime candidate for home cinema duties, but it's not.

For starters, most domestic environments will prove too small to accommodate it, but even if you've got one that can, the set's visual impact is diminished by the visible line structure. The naff sound system takes it down yet another peg.

The overall conclusion must be that the 50PJ98B remains the star of Tosh's 4:3 rear-projection range, and that aside from a few extra inches, the 61PJ98B has little to recommend it over the cheaper model. Size, it would seem, isn't always everything ❐

VERDICT

Britain's biggest TV suffers from a lacklustre sound system and excessive visible line structure. Buy the 50in version instead

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	7/10
SOUND	6/10
FEATURES	6/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	7/10

KEY FEATURES
61in 4:3 display
Built-in Dolby Digital decoder
CRT rear projection

WHAT'S GOOD
Image size; colour reproduction

WHAT'S BAD
Visible line structure; pathetic audio system

FEATURES
61in 4:3 display; CRT rear-projection system; Nicam, Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro-Logic, Dolby 3-Stereo; Hall, Theatre, Disco & Stadium DP modes; 2 x 14W RMS (front, at 10 per cent distortion), 2 x 8W (also at 10 per cent distortion); 500-page teletext memory; auto installation; on/off timer; three picture presets; picture noise reduction

SOCKETS
Front: phono AV with S-video in; headphone mini-jack
Rear: three Scarts (two S-video compatible, one RGB-compatible); S-video (with audio) in; audio line out; optical and coaxial digital inputs; spring-clip terminals for surround and (optional) extension front speakers

DIMENSIONS
1,426(w) x 1,294(h) x 649(d)

WEIGHT
150kg

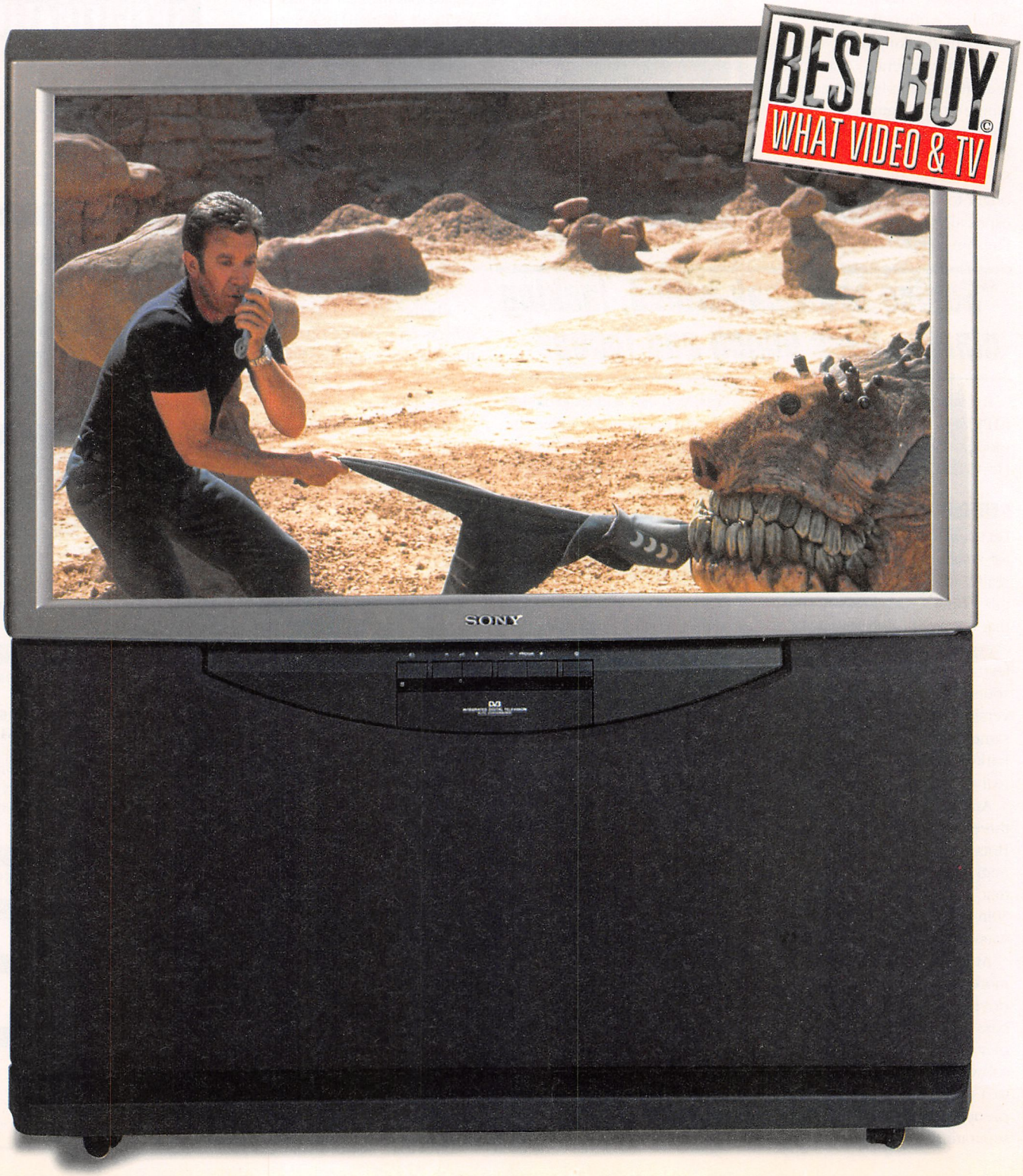
CONTACTS
Toshiba ☎ 01276 62222
www.hello.toshiba.co.uk

TEST DATA
Frequency response: clear to 5.8MHz
Geometry: perfect
Convergence: good
Colour separation: good

SONY KP-41DS1U | Rear-projection IDTV

DIGITAL DOYEN

Sony's £1,900 KP-41DS1U is the first rear-projection TV with a built-in digital tuner. Bob Tomalski welcomes this widescreen wonder to the digital fold



GUIDE PRICE: £1,900

Since digital terrestrial TV was launched in Britain some 18 months ago, integrated digital TVs (IDTVs) have been touted by manufacturers as a powerful reason for consumers to upgrade ahead of time. Why wait for your old TV to go wrong? Buy an IDTV today and do away with the set-top box.

Now Sony has hit upon a further persuasion. Why not upgrade to an affordable super-screen model with onboard IDTV? It's the home cinema fan's dream. A widescreen 41in projection model with digital TV built-in. All for a tad under £2,000.

Too good to be true? We heaved our ancient 37in tubed mammoth out of the sitting room and wheeled in this slimline beauty. Could this high-tech projection model really compete with a conventional CRT in terms of brilliance and image quality? We were keen to find out.

DESCRIPTION

Slimline beauty? It sure is. For although this 41-incher has a giant screen, its footprint is minimal. The depth of the cabinet is a mere 417mm – half that of many large tube models – so it sits snugly beside a wall without dominating the room.

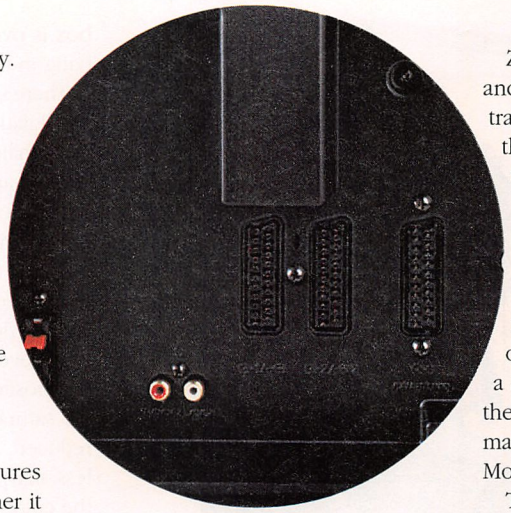
Up front we see a silver fascia straddling a podium covered by a dark-brown grill cloth. The podium sports a pair of 15W stereo speakers that can be configured as a single centre for home cinema use.

Local controls are mounted on an unobtrusive front panel. They include a channel/source select, plus volume and power on/off. There's also auto tune, auto convergence and 'convenience' AV terminals that include an S-video input and headphones socket.

At the rear are three Scarts giving a choice of video inputs. One accepts RGB and composite, the other S-video plus composite and the third composite only. All deliver video/audio outputs allowing recording from the internal digital tuner or any connected source.

An aerial loopthrough is provided, allowing simple RF connection to a VCR. You also have a pair of stereo audio outlets for hooking up to a hi-fi.

Although this TV features an integrated digital tuner it doesn't include a decoder for terrestrial pay-TV. To receive ONdigital there's a Common Interface (basically a PCMCIA slot) that accepts a module to be provided (eventually) by ONdigital. Similarly, a modem socket at the rear allows access to interactive TV services.



Rear sockets include three Scarts with S-video and RGB options

OPERATION

Operation is via an onscreen display that resembles Microsoft Windows. Press Menu on the handset to reveal five topics – picture, sound, video control, timer and tuning presets.

Setup is a doddle. Press auto tune and make a cup of tea. The set can take up to 20min to search all analogue and digital channels, storing them in order, with analogue channels prefixed by the digit '9'. For example, BBC1 is preset 91 for analogue and 1 for digital.

If you detest this arrangement you can rearrange channels or tune them manually. In our area the ITV digital multiplex suffers severe interference each time a train passes on a nearby railway line, yet analogue is unaffected. So we set 1 and 2 for digital BBC, but set 3 and 4 to receive analogue ITV and Channel 4. Such flexibility – and the ability to label channels and AV sources – is very welcome.

Setting colour, contrast, sharpness and brilliance is not totally intuitive. A picture button on the handset gives Live, Movie and Personal presets. Yet only Personal delivers user adjustment. You must enter the menu maze to regulate to taste. The setting also includes hue for NTSC sources.

Similarly, the sound button offers Rock, Jazz, Pop and Personal. Again, the Personal options allow adjustment for bass, treble, balance and spatial sound, plus extra tweaks to select mono/stereo reception and independent headphone volume.

In terms of sonic technology this TV is basic. It sports Nicam stereo, but there's no Pro-Logic, DTS or Dolby Digital decoding. This is no great loss, as most home cinema fans will use it in conjunction with an external home cinema amplifier for decoding multichannel sources such as DVD.

However, you can deploy the internal speakers as 'centre in'. Simply connect your amplifier to the terminals on the back of the TV. But be warned! The speaker rating is 30W RMS. If you have a 100W amp running at full bore you risk an overload. With powerful systems it's safer to use a dedicated centre speaker rather than the one inside the TV.

Digital channels broadcasting widescreen are displayed as 16:9 by default. You can also set 4:3 in the menu or choose Smart or Zoom modes via the handset. Smart gives a good emulation of widescreen and is for 4:3 (regular) programmes.

Zoom enlarges the image and is best used for letterbox transmissions. Associated with this is Scroll, which moves the screen up or down to view parts of the image truncated by the Smart or Zoom modes.

A menu option for digital channels is composite or RGB video. RGB gives a sharper picture yet has the disadvantage of losing manual colour control. More on this later.

There's teletext for analogue broadcasts and an electronic programme guide (EPG) for the digital channels. The EPG shows information which can be sub-divided into programme genres such as film, lifestyle, news, sport and entertainment. By navigating the screen you can select a date, time and genre and see what suits your taste.

The EPG can also be used to programme a VCR for taping digital broadcasts – providing it's SmartLink-compatible and linked via Scart 3. Non-SmartLink VCRs may also be used – remember to set the timer to tape from the TV as an external source.

One thing missing is Digital Teletext. This set does not carry the MHEG software needed to receive it. Sony says that this will be offered free of charge later this year via a software card that downloads to the PCMCIA slot to make it Digital Text-compliant.

Last but not least is convergence. The KP-41DS1 uses 3 x 7in high-brilliance projection tubes firing upwards into an optical block that reflects the image onto the screen.

To ensure the red, green and blue images are perfectly overlapped both auto and manual registration are on offer. Both allow vertical and horizontal adjustment of the red and blue tubes. The auto mode takes about 30sec, during which you see various colours flash on screen, resulting in a plain white cross. After this disappears you are ready for normal viewing. ▶

SONY KP-41DS1U Rear-projection IDTV

PERFORMANCE

The colour clarity, resolution and sheer dramatic impact of the picture are very impressive. For those used to regular TVs, the change to projection is profound. It really is like having a giant cinema screen in your room.

Yet there are trade-offs. In making the image bright for viewing in ambient lighting the screen is directional. The maximum viewing angle in the vertical plane is 27.5° off-axis and 75° in the horizontal plane.

Stand up from your armchair and the picture loses brilliance. Sit down and it's perfect. Such issues are not particular to this Sony, they have been the bane of rear-projection TVs for years.

Another issue concerns convergence. Although the auto and manual setting does a good job registering the centre of the screen, we noted a poor overlap at the extreme edges.

Again, this is unsurprising. Projection TVs easily go out of adjustment, especially when bounced around in transit. We therefore entered the service menu (not generally available to consumers) and re-corrected the dynamic convergence to dramatically improve the performance. This is a service that is best performed by the dealer should it be necessary.

> **"The KP-41DS1's sonics are remarkable"**

In the test lab we measured near-perfect geometry, total freedom from purity problems using a full red field and resolution clear to 5.8MHz via the S-video and composite inputs. Using the Live picture setting the picture is perfectly acceptable in standard room lighting. It is, in fact, brighter than many older CRT TVs.

And niggles? When in 4:3 mode the central image is accompanied by grey rather than black bars either side of the picture, which can be distracting.

Also, when adjusting colour, brilliance and contrast, it's difficult to see the overall effect because the menu box is oversized and placed bang in the centre of the screen.

There's also an RGB foible on digital broadcasts. Compared with analogue channels the colours are too saturated, giving overly healthy-looking skin tones. And when switching from 4:3 to 16:9 using RGB digital reception, the colour level varies.

We eventually opted for the composite setting that allows the saturation to be manually reduced, albeit with a slightly less sharp image. Once set, the colour level stays fixed regardless of aspect ratio.

Some readers have informed us that they suffered colour banding on regular Sony Wega TVs using Region 1 DVDs and RGB output. There are no such problems on this set. The NTSC colour quality looks excellent, although with a tad less brilliance than PAL.

As for digital TV reception, it's virtually identical to an external set-top box. We compared it with Pace and Philips ONdigital receivers and could detect no difference in digital artefacts for better or worse.

And sound quality? Considering it's only stereo and there is no subwoofer, the sonics are remarkable, with a warm bass and detailed treble. The spatial setting gives a flavour of ambience, yet is no replacement for using an external surround sound system.

CONCLUSION

Nit picks aside, this is the ideal home cinema TV. You get a dramatic picture, good image performance and plenty of AV inputs. All without paying extra cash for Pro-Logic or Dolby Digital audio.

As for the integrated digital tuner, it's an added bonus. Even without Digital Teletext and ONdigital – both of which are promised as upgrades later this year – you get some eight additional channels, totally free of charge.

Sony has proved that it can deliver top-quality projection and bundle digital TV into the bargain – all for an affordable price. Such enterprise will surely nurture the interest in DTV. Get a demo and you may find yourself tempted to join the growing audience for giant home screens ❐

VERDICT

An excellent price backed up by impressive performance. The digital tuner comes as a bonus

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	10/10
FEATURES	8/10
EASE OF USE	9/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES

Integrated digital tuner
41in widescreen display
Electronic programme guide

WHAT'S GOOD

Price; picture quality

WHAT'S BAD

4:3 images accompanied by grey side bars; onscreen menus obliterate picture

FEATURES

41in 16:9 rear-projection screen with four display modes; auto widescreen; integrated digital tuner; Nicam stereo; 100 preset channels; NTSC-compatible; electronic programme guide; digital TV recording; analogue teletext (Digital Text upgradable); digital subtitles; sleep timer; SmartLink; parental lock; centre speaker mode; 2 x 15W audio output

SOCKETS

Front: S-video, composite and stereo inputs; headphone output
Rear: three Scarts (RGB and S-video) line level audio out; centre speaker input; common interface slot; modem connection; antenna loopthrough for VCR

DIMENSIONS

1,020(w) x 1,115(h) x 417(d)mm

WEIGHT

53kg

CONTACTS

Sony ☎ 0990 111999
www.sony.co.uk

TEST DATA

Colour: excellent
Geometry: good
Convergence: fair/good
Frequency response: clear to 5.8MHz

NEXT MONTH IN WHAT VIDEO & TV

CHAAARGE!!! RUSH TO THE SHOPS FOR YOUR JUNE ISSUE OF THE UK'S BIGGEST AV MAGAZINE

FLAT RATE
We evaluate the latest in flatscreen TVs, including Philips' 36in 36PW9525, Hitachi's Natura set and a 42in plasma monitor from NEC

WATTS THE STORY?
Denon's stonking AVC-A10 is a powerhouse of an amp. But do THX Ultra Certification and THX Surround EX, Dolby Digital, DTS and DTS ES decoding justify a £1,300 tag? We'll find out

ZOOM WITH A VIEW
Sharp's latest ViewCam is the £1,100 VL-PD6. Sporting a revolutionary detachable LCD screen, a zoom mic and SmartMedia digital still image storage, is this the cam to be seen with?

PROJECT YOURSELF
We round up a clutch of the latest video projectors, including the Philips Hoppa, ASK's A9+ and Sony's VL-P10W

THE FUTURE IS HERE!
Free technology supplement on the future of video and TV, including personal video recorders, tape versus disc, how to link all your home electronic devices and TV's likely changes in the years to come

ALSO:
Sharp's VCMH722 VCR, REL's £900 Storm III subwoofer, Definitive Technology's £1,000 ProCinema 80 speaker system, plus Denon's AVR-2800 receiver

(Contents subject to change)

PANASONIC NV-DS35 DV camcorder

BEAUTIFUL THING

With a dizzying array of new camcorders to choose from, the buying decision is currently harder than ever. Bob Baxter takes a look at one of the favourites in the DV race, the £1,100 Panasonic NV-DS35

Spring is in the air and every manufacturer has plenty of new additions to its existing range. Panasonic is one of the leading players and its DS series of camcorders has proved spectacularly successful in the past. The DS35 is the latest model, and like its predecessors, boasts glamorous looks and thoughtful features.

Make no mistake, the success of a DV camcorder can have as much to do with the way it looks as the way it performs, and with such strong competition, unveiling a stylish cam is a real crowd pleaser. Fortunately, Panasonic is also aware of meeting the enthusiast's needs, and a quick look at the DS35's specification sheet makes it clear that seasoned video-makers are well catered for.

DESCRIPTION

In trying to miniaturise the DS35, Panasonic has made some compromises. Initially, you'll find a low button count on the unit itself, but once you turn the camcorder on (via a two-point switch on the back of the cam) and access the several menu screens, you'll realise that there's plenty more to be discovered – not all of it easily.

However, staying on the outside for a moment longer, few would deny that the DS35 is a great-looking camcorder. Compact and lightweight, it fits snugly into the palm of the hand, and ergonomic contours make it comfortable to hold. It's also easy to keep steady, which is no mean feat

GUIDE PRICE: £1,100

considering the problems some DV cams cause.

The left flank of the DS35 houses the 2.5in LCD screen – 'houses' being the operative word, as the screen folds away so neatly you'd think it wasn't there. Intelligence has prevailed on the part of the designers, so there are no controls or functions behind the LCD. Instead, the screen can be rotated forward and then be pressed back into place, providing a monitor for reviewing footage.

"Plenty of plus points and only a few foibles"

Above the LCD are six dual-action buttons which are used as tape transport controls, or for selecting white balance, fader, backlight compensation, cue or review search, or the multi-picture/picture-in-picture function. The back and right side of the cam are a minimalist's heaven, with just the record start/stop button, zoom lever and Photoshot controls here.

The cassette compartment is, unfortunately, located on the base of the unit. You might not think this a problem at first, but if you've got the cam on a tripod and need to change tapes, you'll have to whip it off the tripod. If you have the docking station attached – it screws onto the base of the camcorder – and want to swap tapes over, you're in even deeper trouble. Hardly a disaster but inconvenient nonetheless.

OPERATION

Nimble fingers are the order of the day with DS35. Once you've switched it on you need to pull the (colour) viewfinder arm back to fully engage the cam. This reveals a selection of very small buttons and a jog/shuttle selector dial, which provide access to the menu system, allowing you to choose between automatic or manual.

If you prefer to control the camcorder yourself, flick the switch to manual and you'll be able to select manual focus, shutter speeds (1/50sec-1/8,000sec in 14 steps) or the iris (*f*16-*f*2.0, 0dB-18dB). Use the jog/shuttle dial to make choices by pressing it down and then rotating it left or right.

Manual white balance is selected by pressing the appropriate button on the cam's left flank. Aside from the auto option you can choose from fully manual, indoor or outdoor settings.

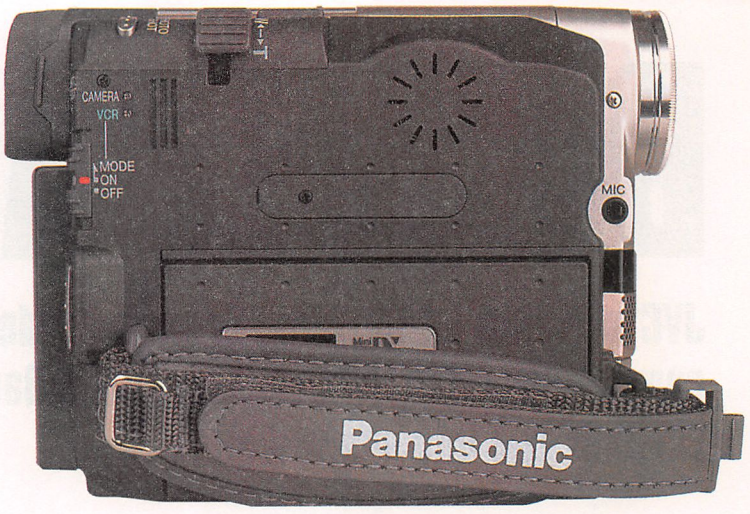
Whether you are in auto or manual mode the Menu button gives you a choice of five further menu screens: Camera Setup, Digital Effect, Multi Pictures, Display Setup and other functions. The first of these enables you to turn on/off the DS35's electronic image stabiliser, cinema mode (not true 16:9), digital zoom and progressive photoshot modes.

This last setting is an enhancement of the camcorder's digital still mode, which lets you record still pictures at a higher resolution – as it records a frame rather than two fields of video. There's a vast array of digital effects, many of which are available in playback mode, plus a nifty 10x playback zoom.

PERFORMANCE

Improvements in CCD technology mean you can now get exceptional footage from camcorders, such as the DS35, which cost just over £1,000. The DS35 produces some particularly vivid and crisp images, and exhibits auto focus hunting only in very poorly lit conditions. For its size it is a very quiet machine, with no excessive motor or zoom noise detected. Handling noise is picked up, but that's inevitable with such a diminutive cam.

The DS35's auto systems all cope adequately, but with such a plethora of manual modes available, we recommend taking a chance and controlling the camcorder yourself. Unfortunately, there is one negative to all this upbeat information – a disappointing audio performance. OK, so it is on a par with its competitors, but there is a distinct lack of dynamism to the DS35's sound quality.



Major operating controls fall nicely to hand on the right flank

CONCLUSION

A highly desirable camcorder with plenty of plus points and only a few foibles. It is bound to attract those looking for a cool gadget but who aren't content with just that. Beware if you're not the most agile of users, as you may be frustrated by its tricky controls, but on almost every other count the DS35 is a real star attraction ❐

VERDICT

A great little cam which is versatile enough for the creative video-maker

SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	7/10
FEATURES	9/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES

2.5in LCD screen
Manual controls
15x optical (30x & 150x digital) zoom
Progressive Photoshot mode

WHAT'S GOOD

Picture quality; range of manual functions/features; design & layout

WHAT'S BAD

Mode selection menu; sound; no external headphone socket on cam; i.Link DV-out only

FEATURES

0.25in CCD; *f*1.8 lens, 3.7-55.5mm focal length; 15x optical (30x & 150x digital) zoom; 30.5mm filter diameter; 2.5in colour LCD screen; colour viewfinder; PCM digital sound, 16-bit (48kHz) and 12-bit (32kHz); auto/manual focus, white balance, shutter speeds, iris; 5-mode Program AE; 13 digital effects; Cinema mode; 10 playback effects; Progressive (digital still) Photoshot mode; Photoshot index search; scene index search; super image stabiliser; audio dub; backlight compensation; recording check; slo-mo playback; playback zoom; fade; date/time recording; SP/LP; timecode; docking station; tripod bush; Lithium-ion battery pack; head-cleaning cassette

SOCKETS

On camcorder: composite AV out; i.Link out; external mic in
On supplied docking station: composite AV out; S-video out; headphones in; digital still picture terminal; Panasonic 5-pin edit socket

DIMENSIONS

72(w) x 50(h) x 143(d)mm

WEIGHT

0.57kg (inc battery and tape)

CONTACT

Panasonic ☎ 0990 357357
www.panasonic.co.uk

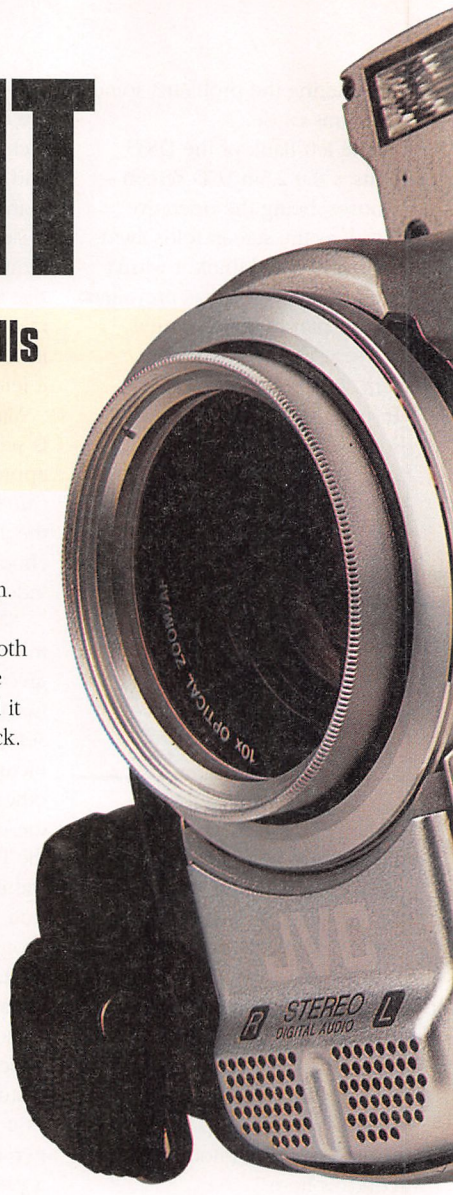
TEST DATA

Resolution: 440 lines
Jitter: 8ns (good)
Chroma AM/PM: -51.6dB/-51.4dB (excellent/excellent)
Chroma crosstalk: -43.2dB (fair)
Signal-to-noise ratio (active line): -44.8dB (very good)
Frequency response at 2.0MHz: -5.77dB (very good)
at 3.0MHz: -12.11dB (fair)
at 3.5MHz: -15.59dB (fair)
at 4.0MHz: -19.7dB (below average)
Dot crawl/grain: none/none

JVC GR-DVL9800 | DV camcorder

DOUBLE AGENT

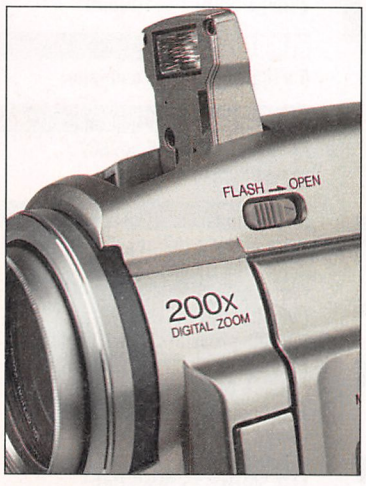
JVC's £1,400 GR-DVL9800 is a camcorder and digital stills camera all in one neat package. Colin Barrett finds out whether two into one will go



This latest box of tricks from JVC is further proof that digital video and still-image technologies are converging. It makes perfect sense to have one device that takes pictures – whether they be still or moving – and can record sound.

Given that much the same lenses, CCD chips, effects circuits and input/output connectors are employed on each format, it's silly to use two completely separate devices to capture video and stills. The GR-DVL9800 is JVC's latest way of addressing all those needs in one compact unit.

What's more, it's the company's first camcorder capable of recording XGA resolution stills and with 520 lines of resolution. The DVL9800 also joins the small gang of camcorders with DV and analogue line inputs. This is an immensely useful facility, and one which could enable you to import VHS or 8mm footage into a DV-only computer editing system, then master it back to your cam prior to copying or distribution.



A pop-up flashgun is all part of the cam's excellent stills credentials

DESCRIPTION

The front page of the manual describes the DVL9800 as a digital camcorder, so let's consider its video features first. For a start, it's small. Very small. For home users who simply want a unit to take on holiday or shoot a family gathering it's ideal.

The main controls – zoom, power switch, tape playback controls, etc – are where you'd expect them to be, and the top of the tape compartment is sensibly recessed for improved grip.

The main Menu thumbwheel is situated by the right forefinger, and is used to scroll through the numerous menu settings for both video and Digital Still Camera (DSC) operation. Depressing it selects the desired setting or function. Unfortunately, it's also used to set manual functions like exposure, white balance and – more importantly – focus, making it less likely that anyone will ever opt out of fully auto operation.

The cam's colour viewfinder is smaller than that found on models like the Panasonic DX110 or recently released Canon XM-1. It does, however, tilt up to a full vertical position which could be useful in certain situations.

A major plus point for the DVL9800 is its large and high-quality folding LCD screen. It's possibly the best we've encountered on any DV cam. You can use either the LCD or the viewfinder, but not both at the same time. To use the viewfinder, you have to pull it forward until you hear a click.

The number of functions offered by the DVL9800 is plentiful. As well as the usual Sepia, B&W, Cinema Ratio and digital motion effects seen on almost all late-model camcorders, this machine offers an extensive range of shot transitions – from mixes and wipes to digital trails.

While these are guaranteed to get an excitable High Street salesperson even more excited, we can't see anyone using them extensively. Furthermore, if you have a PC-based editing system, you would probably apply these effects when editing.

Talking of gimmicks, here's another: the 200x digital zoom. Only recently, we were lambasting manufacturers for including 120x digital zooms which produce extreme telephoto images consisting of nothing but blocky, pixellated images that serve no purpose whatever.

And here we have a cam whose digital zoom ratio is a huge 200x magnification. A useless sales gimmick? We'll say no more.

OPERATION

Try to switch the camcorder on and you encounter what is the first in a set of annoying problems. The main power switch, situated behind the right thumb, is rather fiddly to use. Not only that, it's very easy to accidentally hit the Record button when trying to select one of four modes – three video modes (Auto and Manual record plus Play), and a 'DSC Play' mode for the digital still camera operation. Within the first 10min of use, we accidentally hit the Record button twice.

Switching between video and digital still camera functions is achieved via a shooting mode dial which is situated on the outer case of the LCD screen. Five settings are available: a Dual mode (allows video recordings and still images to be captured simultaneously); PS (progressive scan, for grabbing sharp freeze-frame images from a pre-recorded tape); VGA (still images of 640 x 480 pixels) and XGA (for higher-quality

GUIDE PRICE: £1,400

1,024 x 768 pixel images), both of which are written to the slot-in multimedia card for later editing and export. The final option is video.

> **"Highly satisfactory results on video"**

Still images are grabbed using a Photo button situated next to the zoom toggle. An audible click occurs when you press it, and the viewfinder (or LCD) image displays a shutter-like sequence as you take the digital still picture.

For low-light conditions, there's even a pop-up flash mounted above the lens. You can choose from three picture quality modes (Fine, Standard or Economy) at either VGA or XGA settings. Capacity ranges from 75 economy VGA images per each (supplied) 4Mb card to 12 XGA images at the Fine setting. Optional 8Mb cards are available.

JVC supplies a range of hardware and software options with the kit, ranging from video and audio cabling to the various adaptors necessary to output images from the multimedia card to a Windows PC or Apple Mac.

The picture editing options are achieved from within the cam. Once you've worked out the menu system it's a straightforward job to select and delete unwanted images. Stored images can be downloaded to a PC via the RS232 terminal or transferred to DV videotape.

PERFORMANCE

The quality of the video images is fine compared to most DV camcorders intended for domestic use. Only when up against Sony's PC100 and Panasonic's DX110 is the DVL9800 inferior.

JVC has a reputation for delivering images with a reddish bias. Even in bright sunlight, the DVL9800 causes bright-red tulips to blush more ➤

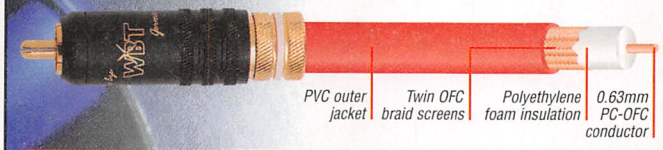
The finer detail of the leaves in the XGA mode still image (left) is apparent when compared with VGA mode (above)

IXOS

Cables that unleash the true digital performance from your DVD player

IXOS 105 Digital available in 1m

A purpose designed cable for utilising the coaxial output on DVD players. The IXOS 105 is rated at a true 75 ohms, and accurately reproduces the full Digital spectrum on current Digital soundtrack formats.



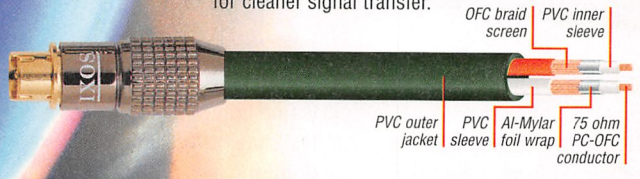
IXOS 106 Fibre Optic available in 1m or 2m

Designed for the optical output, the IXOS 106 contains a medical grade fibre optical core for high quality digital signal transfer. The IXOS 106 features an IXOS Toslink™ connector, ensuring critical connection integrity.

IXOS 124AV S-Video available in 1m and 3m

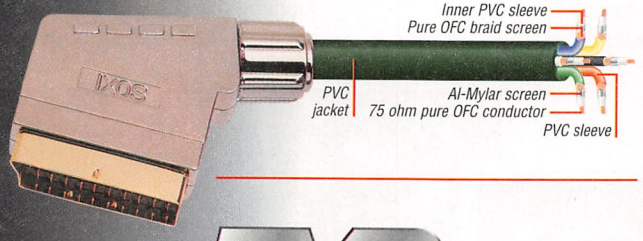
Used for S-Video output, the IXOS 124AV separates the luminance and chrominance signals, delivering clearer and sharper picture quality.

- The IXOS 124AV features hard gold plated S-Video connectors for cleaner signal transfer.



IXOS 126AV Scart available in 0.75m, 1.5m, 3.0m and 5.0m

Designed for the EuroScart system, the 126AV delivers precision picture definition and professional quality sound reproduction, in a neat convenient format. Its Ingot Metal Scart plug with gold plated pins, delivers a rugged and reliable performance.



DVD VIDEO

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DSC has a range of borders and backgrounds

◀ than we'd expect them to with a Sony or Panasonic equivalent. In low light, indoors, images are slightly noisier than the PC100 or Canon XM-1, for example.

The DSC images are very good and more than adequate for the home enthusiast market. As a means of getting quick grabs into a DTP or Web-creation package it's ideal – especially if you have a colour inkjet printer nearby. There's even a printer output port on the cam's flank.

Also bundled is a CD – JVC MultiMedia Navigator for Windows 95/98 – which contains PhotoAlbum software, together with JLIP VideoCapture and VideoProducer software for PCs. Picture Navigator can be used with PCs and Apple Mac.

Sound is achieved by a stereo pair of mics mounted immediately below the lens. Quality is as you'd expect from built-in mics – OK but not spectacular. There's no accessory shoe on which an external mic or video light could be fitted.

CONCLUSION

Given its intended market, this is a nice little cam that produces highly satisfactory results on video and in still image mode. We found the fiddly menu system too much to bear when all we needed to do was to make a quick change, and the operational buttons are a bit of a fiddle, but all in all we like the DVL-9800.

The large LCD screen and the ability to import not only DV but analogue video sources make this a definite front runner as things hot up in the DV cam stakes ❐

GUIDE PRICE: £1,400

VERDICT

A feature-packed camcorder with highly satisfactory still and moving image recording

SPECIFICATIONS

EASE OF USE	8/10
FEATURES	10/10
PICTURE	9/10
SOUND	8/10
OVERALL	9/10

WHAT'S GOOD

General handling; large high-quality LCD screen; not only DV-in/out, but composite video, S-video and stereo audio inputs, too; built-in DSC picture editing menus

WHAT'S BAD

Fiddly power switch; too many digital effects and menu choices; lack of accessory shoe

FEATURES

DV 12/16-bit stereo sound; lens *f*1.8 5-50 mm; 10x optical/200x digital zoom; ⅛in CCD progressive scan exposure; auto/manual shutter; auto/manual 1/60sec, 1/100sec and 1/250sec speeds; Progressive scan mode for slow-motion playback; digital image stabiliser; gain up; tele macro aspect ratio/cinema; 4:3, and 'stretch' backlight; spotlight exposure compensation; three faders; 12 wipe/dissolve picture effects including B&W, Sepia, Video Echo, Classic Film & Strobe; 3.5in LCD monitor; 4Mb media card stores 12-75 images; six image quality modes for stills; LP mode for video speaker; built-in flash remote control; random access editing (with compatible VCR)

SOCKETS

i.Link DV in/out; printer jacks & video jack; mic and headphone jacks

DIMENSIONS

77(w) x 94(h) x 142(d)mm

WEIGHT

0.62 kg

TEST DATA

Resolution: 520 lines
Frequency response (S-video):
at 2MHz: -4.56dB (very good)
at 3MHz: -5.55dB (excellent)
at 3.5MHz: -4.44dB (excellent)
at 4MHz: -8.40dB (very good)
Signal-to-noise ratio (quiet line): -54.4dB (excellent)
active line: -53.0dB (excellent)
Horizontal sync jitter: 21ns (below average)
Chroma AM/PM: -43.0/44.0dB (very good/very good)
Chroma crosstalk: -44.8dB (fair)
Grain/dot crawl: none/none
Dynamic range: excellent

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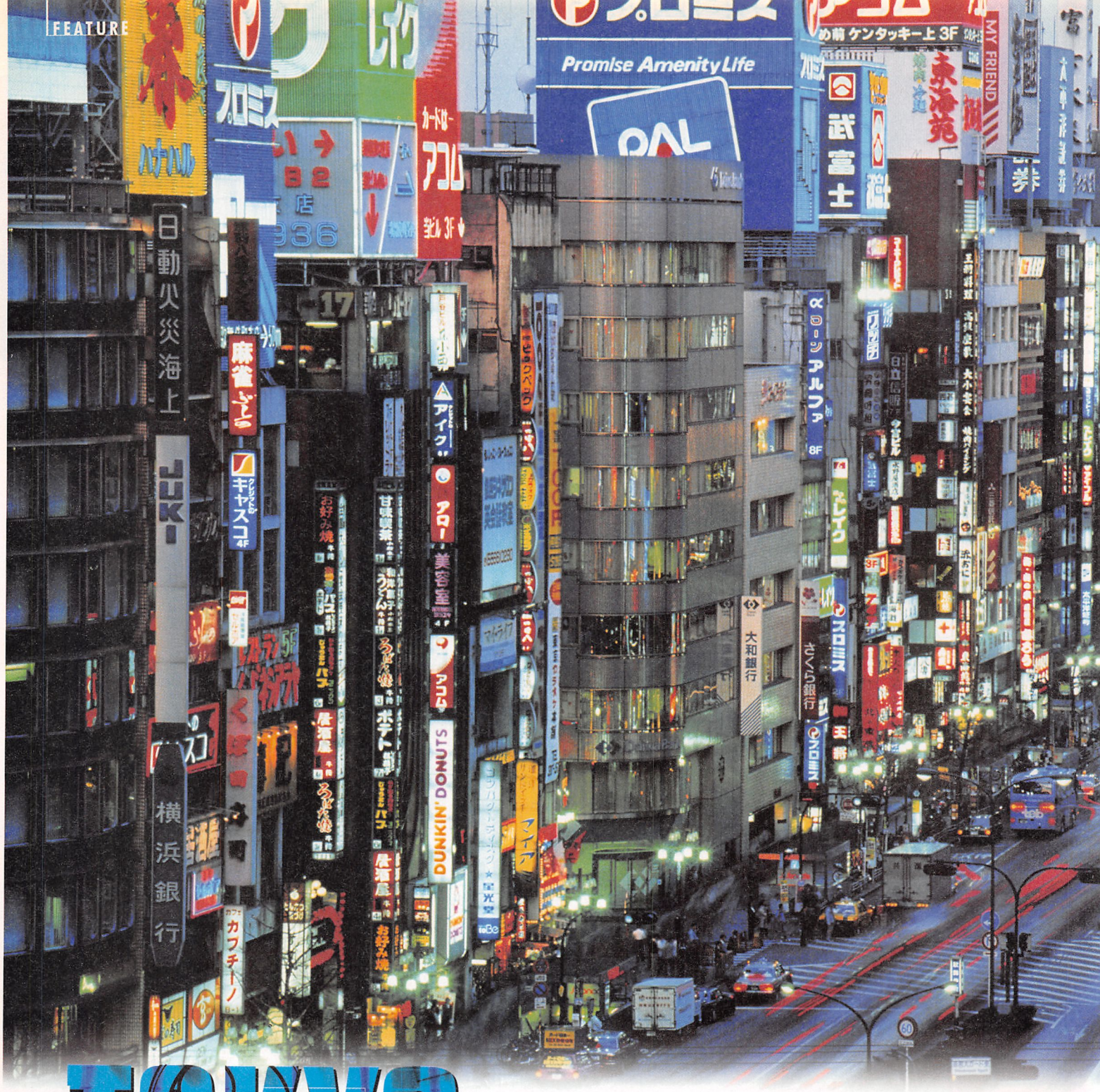


TOKYO TECH [PART 2]

Following on from last month's report from Japan on the plans which Toshiba, JVC, Panasonic and Hitachi have for VCR and TV technology, Adrian Justins talks DVD with these four big guns of the AV world

Despite the astonishing success of DVD as the ultimate home cinema viewing platform, in order to achieve mass-market penetration of VCR proportions, the medium must become recordable. But there are several problems facing recordable DVD, including the fledgling D-VHS format, the threat of hard disk video recorders and the inability of manufacturers to agree on a single recordable standard.

Given that everyone managed, via the DVD Forum, to agree on a single standard for DVD players, you'd have thought it would be feasible with the recordable version. In the March issue of *What Video & TV* (p24) we explained how the competing formats – DVD-RAM, DVD+RW and DVD-RW – work, and where they currently stand in terms of development.

When we asked the companies themselves how this situation arose they seemed keener to explain how their own system worked and why it was the best option, or at least superior to D-VHS. 'Let the consumer decide,' seems to be the message, but it will be some time (next year at the earliest) before we in Europe can properly evaluate the different formats.

Recordable home decks aren't the only aspect of DVD under development. Other areas include DVD-Audio, DVD camcorders and next-generation players with improved features.

"In a digital world it's very hard to protect anything"

HITACHI

Hitachi established its credentials as a disc-based manufacturer when it released an MPEG-1 camcorder a few years back. The company has now announced the launch of a DVD-RAM camcorder, which it sees as a vital component in a DVD-RAM home entertainment and network system.

Why is Hitachi turning its back on tape? Horoshi Mikami, manager of marketing and product planning, cites the durability of DVD, which delivers a head usage of 10,000hr compared with 2,000hr for tape, and a reliability lifetime of 30yr for a DVD-RAM disc compared with 10yr for VHS tape. DVD also has the advantage of near-instantaneous scene access, higher-speed playback and non-linear editing facilities. Hitachi plans to go DVD mad this year. As well as its DVD-RAM camcorder, it will launch four DVD-Video players, a 4.7Gb DVD-RAM drive and a DVD-RAM recorder. The first of these products will be an innovative DVD player with a built-in CD-R facility.

How does Hitachi see the recordable DVD war evolving? The company says that as far as the DVD Forum is concerned, new standards will be reached ensuring compatibility between DVD-RAM (Panasonic, Toshiba and Hitachi) and DVD-RW (Pioneer and Sharp), while DVD+RW (Philips and Sony) will remain outside the official DVD Forum standard.

Dr Toshino Murata, deputy general manager, says it is still too early to predict the ➤

The DVD disc used in Hitachi's RAM camcorder is smaller than that found in DVD-Video decks

The editor checks out Tokyo's Akihabara district, the AV centre of the retail universe

TOKYO TECH

JVC's next-generation DVD-Video decks, on sale now in Japan, due here soon

destiny of DVD recorders, but he believes the main stumbling block is the issue of copy protection. 'In a digital world it's very hard to protect anything,' he says. This is something the Motion Picture Association of America would do well to heed if agreement is to be reached on the provision of software material for broadcasting. Recordable DVD will not succeed unless consumers know they can timeshift all broadcasts, including first-run movies.

TOSHIBA

When asked about the recordable DVD format war Minoru Kai, Toshiba's technology executive and general manager, declares that officially, the company would hope to see a unified standard, but in reality we can expect to see a format war. It's clear that the different formats are being launched to meet different needs. 'One consumer might want a universal deck [capable of recording discs that can play on any existing DVD players], while another might want a single standard that is cheaper and simpler,' he says.

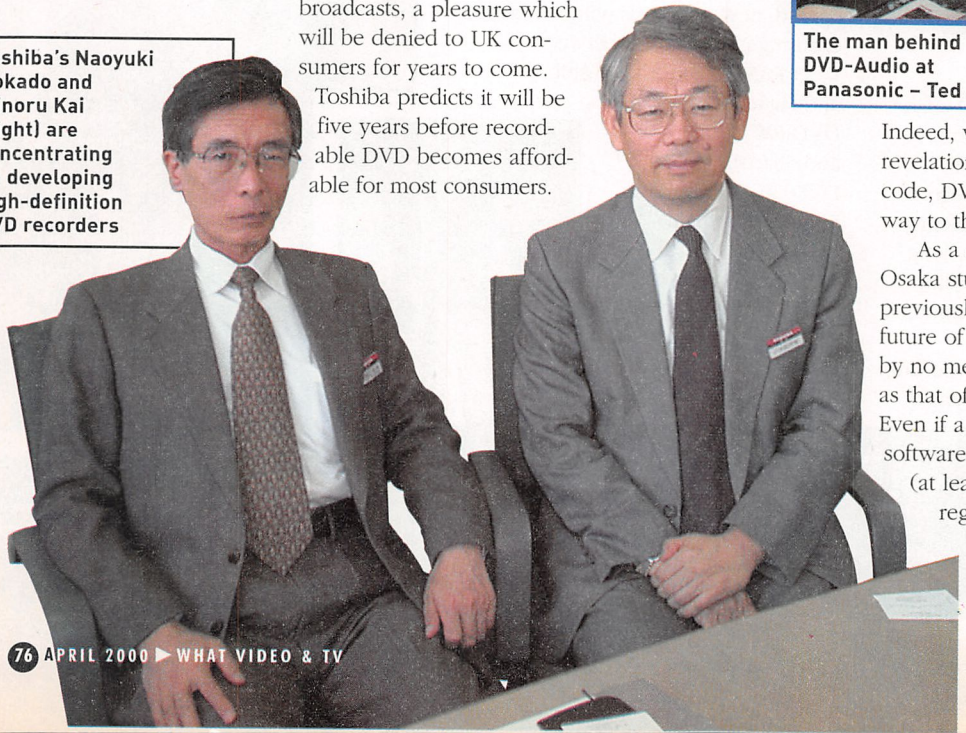
Meanwhile, Naoyuki Kokado, chief specialist for advanced imaging and video products, says that Toshiba regards high-definition (HD) DVD as paramount, a development which would at least allow Europeans to enjoy the peripheral benefit of longer recording times. A deck that records 2hr in HD mode would have a capacity of up to 8hr in standard mode. Of course, the main purpose of an HD DVD deck would be to record HD broadcasts, a pleasure which will be denied to UK consumers for years to come.

Toshiba predicts it will be five years before recordable DVD becomes affordable for most consumers.

"Within two years there will be 10m DVD players globally"

Panasonic's Eddie Asaki (left) extolling the virtues of a DVD world to *What Video & TV* publisher Steve May and technical editor Bob Tomalski (right)

The man behind DVD-Audio at Panasonic – Ted Abe



Toshiba's Naoyuki Kokado and Minoru Kai (right) are concentrating on developing high-definition DVD recorders

JVC

With so much of its energies devoted to D-VHS, JVC is adopting a wait-and-see stance on the future of DVD as a recordable format. As Atsumi Hirata, general manager of the Media Business Department, explained to *What Video & TV*, 'Within two years there will be 10 million DVD players in the world which won't be able to play discs recorded in a recordable DVD machine.' JVC believes it will be at least two years before recordable DVD-RW or DVD-RAM is compatible with existing players. The company is currently conducting marketability studies before deciding which recordable format to back.

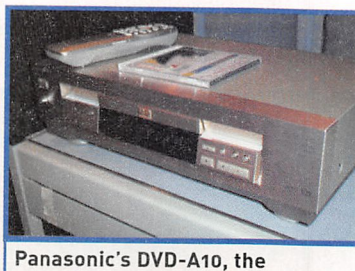
Panasonic

Panasonic has enthusiastic plans to make this a DVD world. After declaring his disappointment at the derailment of DVD-Audio (see *News*, Feb 2000 issue, p9) general manager Eddie Esaki wasn't shy in unveiling his plans for the coming year.

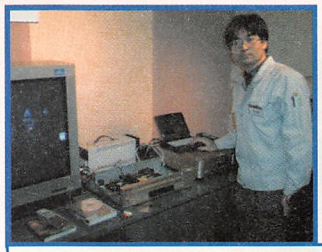
Esaki looks forward to the discontinuation of portable CD. He feels that the ability to store over 8Gb of information on a single DVD disc renders the CD poor value by comparison. Panasonic makes no bones about promoting DVD-Audio, with its superior sampling frequency and multichannel capability, as the de rigeur format for the enjoyment of music (see *How DVD-Audio Compares to CD and SACD*, below).

Indeed, were it not for the recent hacking and revelation on the internet of the DVD encryption code, DVD-Audio would currently be winging its way to the UK.

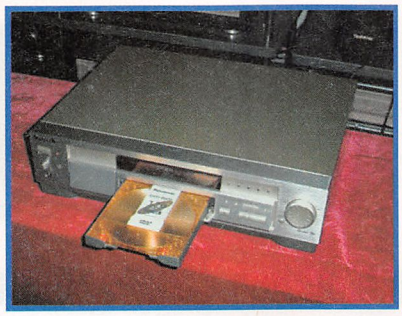
As a demonstration of DVD-Audio in the company's Osaka studio proved, the format is capable of delivering previously unattainable levels of performance, yet the future of DVD-Audio is by no means as certain as that of DVD-Video. Even if a wide range of software is distributed (at least there's no regional coding spanner to throw in the works), the



Panasonic's DVD-A10, the company's first DVD-Audio deck, due in the UK this summer



A Panasonic engineer showing off the company's Progressive Scan-equipped DVD deck



Noriaki Gentsu explains Panasonic's conviction that DVD-RAM will prevail in the recordable DVD war. The company's prototype VDR-1000 deck (centre) won't appear in the UK until next year

format faces stiff opposition from Sony and Philips' SACD. And it will also take an awful lot to convince consumers that the well-loved CD is now outmoded.

When it comes to DVD-Video, Panasonic was keen to show off its new progressive scan player. The DVD-H1000, which will sell for a handsome £1,500 when it goes on sale in the US and Japan this year, sports a line doubler, which reduces flicker and makes edges smoother. The player outputs the pro-scan signal via component video outputs, which also carry the Macrovision copy-protection code.

Sadly, the DVD-H1000 – a highly impressive piece of kit – will not appear in Europe, where RGB Scart is mostly used for connecting DVD players to TVs. What a shame it is that European TVs don't have component inputs. Hopefully, some bright spark will eventually decide to produce a DVD player with a progressive scan RGB output. Further DVD-related developments which we can at least expect to see in Europe include digital noise reduction and gamma correction, a function which adds detail to dark areas without affecting the bright parts of an image.

Most prominent in Panasonic's DVD presentation was its DVD-RAM recorder (see *News*, Feb 2000 issue, p7), which was officially unveiled at the 2000 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. When the company demonstrated this prototype recorder the machine's excellent functionality was apparent. Instant scene access plus a tape library function spell an end to the days of shuttling back and forward through a tape, looking for a recording or trying to skip the adverts.

But this is a feature common to the other recordable DVD formats, so why has Panasonic taken the RAM option, which uses a caddy? 'RAM has a number of advantages,' says Noriaki Gentsu, general manager. 'Each disc can be rewritten around 100,000 times compared to 1,000 times for DVD-RW and +RW.'

There are other benefits. The maximum data transfer rate for RAM is 22.5Mbit/sec (double that of DVD-RW), scene access is twice as fast and disc-ejection is immediate, while with -RW there is a 10-40sec wait while finalising takes place.

The company seems unconcerned by the incompatibility of DVD-RAM with existing DVD players – a result of the inability of today's DVD decks to deal with the higher bit rate used on RAM recordings. Instead, Panasonic prefers to champion the benefits of its new machine, such as the ability to reduce jitter and noise on RAM recordings of old analogue VHS tape footage. In addition, the playlist function allows you to choose cut-in and -out points of a disc, thereby sparing your family and friends from hours of tedium when watching DVD recordings of camcorder-sourced material.

Panasonic admits it is concentrating on the PC market rather than the AV sector, but promises that it intends to develop DVD players capable of playing DVD-RAM discs. This technology really makes VHS seem like something out of the Ark, but of course it will be some time before recordable DVD threatens the £100 timeshifting VCR of today ❐

"Panasonic plans to make this a DVD world"

RECORDABLE DVD FORMATS COMPARED

Format	RAM	-RW	+RW
Supported by	Panasonic, Toshiba Hitachi	Pioneer Sharp	Sony, Philips Thomson
Current capacity	4.7Gb	4.7Gb	4.7Gb
No of times disc can be rewritten	100,000	1,000	1,000
Maximum data rate	22.5Mbit/sec	11.1Mbit/sec	10.0Mbit/sec
Delay before ejecting disc	none (immediate eject)	10-60sec delay, depending on content duration	

HOW DVD-AUDIO COMPARES TO CD AND SACD

DVD-Audio has several advantages over CD. While CDs are typically recorded at a sampling rate of 44kHz, DVD-Audio can record at sampling frequencies up to 192kHz. Such high frequencies are, however, not heard by the human ear, so the premium quality is redundant beyond about 60kHz. The extra quality offers listeners the comfort of knowing that they are not missing anything. Quantization of DVD-Audio is 24-bit, while ordinary CD is 16-bit. Super Audio CD offers a sampling rate of 2.8MHz, but eschews the PCM recording system in favour of the Direct Stream Digital system. The dynamic range of DVD-Audio is a claimed 144dB, SACD is 120dB.

Of greater interest is DVD-Audio's ability to playback multichannel sound. The consumer is used to hearing movie soundtracks split over six or seven channels, so why not offer the same with music? Multichannel sound is only possible up to 96kHz, with 192kHz restricted to 2-channel stereo. Another benefit of the format is that audio recorded at 44.1kHz on a CD or DVD-Video disc can be resampled to 88.2kHz. Listeners can hear for themselves the difference higher frequencies make to their old recordings.

Like recordable DVD there are compatibility issues facing DVD-Audio. Panasonic is keen to point out that not only will CDs and DVD-Video discs play in DVD-Audio decks, but DVD-Audio discs will play in existing DVD players. The major difference between DVD-Audio and Super Audio compact disc (SACD) is that SACD discs are compatible with existing CD players, while DVD-Audio discs aren't. But then SACD players don't play DVD-Videos, nor do they offer multichannel sound (yet), so only DVD-Audio provides an all-in-one solution to both video and audio needs.

POWER PLAYER

Onkyo's new DTS receiver looks a million dollars, but will only cost you £400. David Smith puts the TX-DS575 through its paces

One of the key factors when buying any home cinema gear is future-proofing. There is nothing more frustrating than spending good money on an amplifier only to find it superseded by new technology within the year.

The current top sound formats, Dolby Pro-Logic, Dolby Digital and DTS look well established, but you never know what might be just over the horizon, so it makes sense to play it safe.

Onkyo's TX-DS575 receiver offers all of the current formats, but also comes with six-channel inputs for hooking up an external decoder. If (and when) a new format arrives, you could simply buy a new decoder to work in tandem with the DS575, rather than having to ditch it completely for a new amp.

This is undoubtedly a big plus for the future, but is this Onkyo good enough for you to want it now?

DESCRIPTION

You can't fault the DS575 on its looks. This is an imposing, meaty looking amp, finished in black for a serious, businesslike feel. The inevitable huge volume knob sits in the traditional place, on the right of the front fascia, with the other controls grouped around the display panel.

At the receiver's business end is a comprehensive collection of inputs and outputs. Seven stereo audio inputs, four composite video inputs, two coaxial digital sockets and an optical digital socket are joined by a pair of composite video outputs and two stereo audio outs.

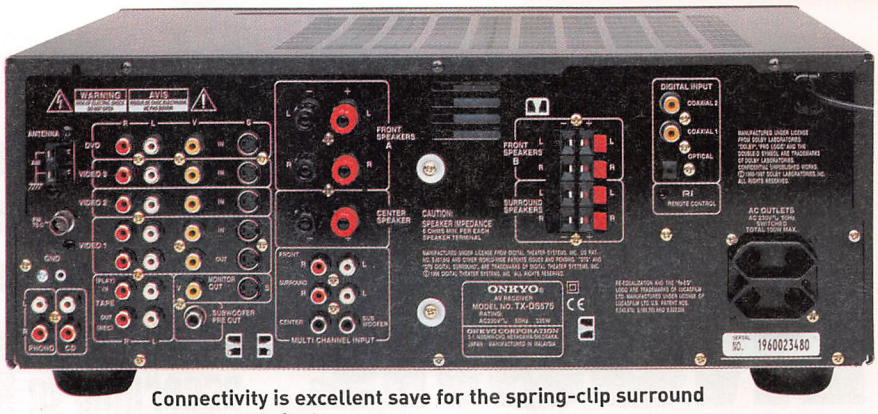
> **"For £400, a very tempting home cinema product"**

Encouragingly, there is also full S-video support, with four inputs and two outputs. The six-channel inputs are joined by a pre-out for a subwoofer. Speaker connections are not ideal. There are sturdy binding post connections for front and centre speakers, but only spring-clip terminals for the surrounds and a second pair of front speakers.

Spring-clip terminals sometimes have trouble accepting chunky speaker cable, which can impact on sound quality. At least these can handle decent-quality cable.

Power output is rated at 5 x 70W, which should be enough

GUIDE PRICE: £400



Connectivity is excellent save for the spring-clip surround speaker terminals

to satisfy most users, but may not be enough for really serious home cinema installations.

OPERATION

There is no onscreen menu, but setup is still reasonably straightforward using the remote control, front-panel buttons and the LED display.

The DS575 offers the usual choices for your speaker configuration: Small or Large for the front stereo pair; Small, Large or None for centre and surround; and Yes or No for a subwoofer.

While it is possible to make use of some of the DS575's sound modes to compensate for the lack of centre and rear speakers, it's obvious to anyone who has ever enjoyed a full home cinema demo that you should aim to have a full speaker setup.

The sound levels of each channel can be adjusted (from -12dB to +12dB), so if you like your rear effects to be subtle you can tame them easily, or boost them for a more action-packed performance.

Bass and treble can be set to your personal taste and the distance of each speaker from the listening position is adjustable. A test-tone generator will help you to get the speakers set up correctly.

Various DSP (digital soundfield processing) modes are available, which all add effects to the soundtrack or music source. Orchestra, Unplugged, Studio Mix, TV Logic and 5Ch Stereo are all worth a try, although a pure Dolby Digital or DTS soundtrack is preferable.

The Late Night mode will narrow the dynamic range of a soundtrack in case you don't want to annoy the folks next door or wake up the kids. It only works with Dolby Digital sources.

Finally, Re-EQ reduces excessive brightness, which may be apparent on a soundtrack which was, after all, originally mixed for playback in a large cinema.

This, along with the RDS-equipped tuner, is a comprehensive set of functions for a home cinema receiver, and the only gripe is with the remote, which is festooned with buttons and takes time to master.

PERFORMANCE

One of the most demanding DVDs for home cinema testing is *The Matrix*, so we used a Region 1 version to put the DS575 through its paces. The stunning lobby shootout sequence features a complex mix of effects and music. There are gunshots and shotgun blasts interspersed with the tinkling of spent cartridges falling to the floor, and the smashing impacts as the bullets hit walls and bodies.

The Onkyo resolved the action clearly, never muddying the effects but always presenting them individually. There's plenty of welly on offer as well, with the DS575 going loud without difficulty.

DTS playback was tested with a Region 1 DVD of *Apollo 13*. We looked at the launch sequence, which can appear as a jumbled roar with inferior amps. Again the Onkyo impressed. The deep rumble of the mighty rocket engines was there, but the dialogue was also presented cleanly and clearly.

On music sources the performance is also good but perhaps not quite as impressive, and we like this receiver most as a home cinema centrepiece.

CONCLUSION

For £400 Onkyo has served up a very tempting home cinema product. It should be enough unless you're considering converting a garage or spare room into a dedicated home cinema. If so, you might want a bit more power.

For most of us however, the DS575 really does have it all. Its performance is excellent and it can handle all of today's major sound formats. What's more, those six-channel inputs mean you can snap up this receiver with no fears for the future. It looks the business as well and will certainly impress your friends.

It used to be that a bargain inevitably involved some sort of compromise. The Onkyo TX-DS575 is certainly a bargain, but we're blowed if we can see where the compromise is ❐

VERDICT

Excellent budget amp which is perfect for small-scale home cinemas

SPECIFICATIONS

SOUND	9/10
FEATURES	9/10
EASE OF USE	8/10
OVERALL	9/10

KEY FEATURES
Dolby Digital/DTS
5 x 70W
RDS tuner

WHAT'S GOOD
Sound quality

WHAT'S BAD
Awkward remote

FEATURES
Dolby Pro-Logic/Dolby Digital/DTS decoding; 5 x 70W amplification; Re-EQ; Late Night mode; DSP effects; tone control; test-tone generator; RDS tuner

SOCKETS
Front: headphone socket
Rear: seven stereo phono inputs; four composite video inputs; one optical digital input; two coaxial digital inputs; four S-video inputs; two stereo phono outputs; two composite video outputs; pre-out for subwoofer; two S-video outputs; six-channel inputs; FM antenna input; AM loop antenna socket

DIMENSIONS
435(w) x 175(h) x 390(d)mm

WEIGHT
12.3kg

CONTACT
Onkyo ☎ 01296 482017
www.onkyo.co.jp

TRIUMPHANT ENCORE

Sub/sat speaker systems may fit into the teeniest living rooms, but their performance can match their size. Not so with Energy's £1,300 Encore system, according to Kulwinder Singh Rai

After Energy's successful debut in February's *What Video & TV* with the bargain Take5 sub/satellite speaker system, we were keen on seeing what else this Canadian brand had to offer. So it gave us the Encore system. Designed from the outset for use in Dolby Digital systems – unlike the Take 5 – this is an altogether more upmarket collection of speakers, priced at a hefty £1,300.

DESCRIPTION

The piano-black finish used on the Take5 system gives way here to something called burnished ebony gloss, used on every speaker including the sub. It's pretty sexy (and beats the hell out of black ash), though we still prefer the piano finish.

Fronting the satellites are ultra-rigid silver-finished baffles, injection-moulded from composite resin, no less. The drive units in the ported centre and four identical satellites are 28mm ally domes for the sharp bits, plus 112mm multi-laminated aluminium polycarbonate cones (two in the centre speaker) for the bassy stuff. The combined visual effect is futuristic, high tech and thoroughly desirable.

Each satellite comes with a ball-jointed bracket that can be used for wall or ceiling mounting. Buy the optional matching stands (£100 a pair) and the brackets can be fixed to them, too – very neat.

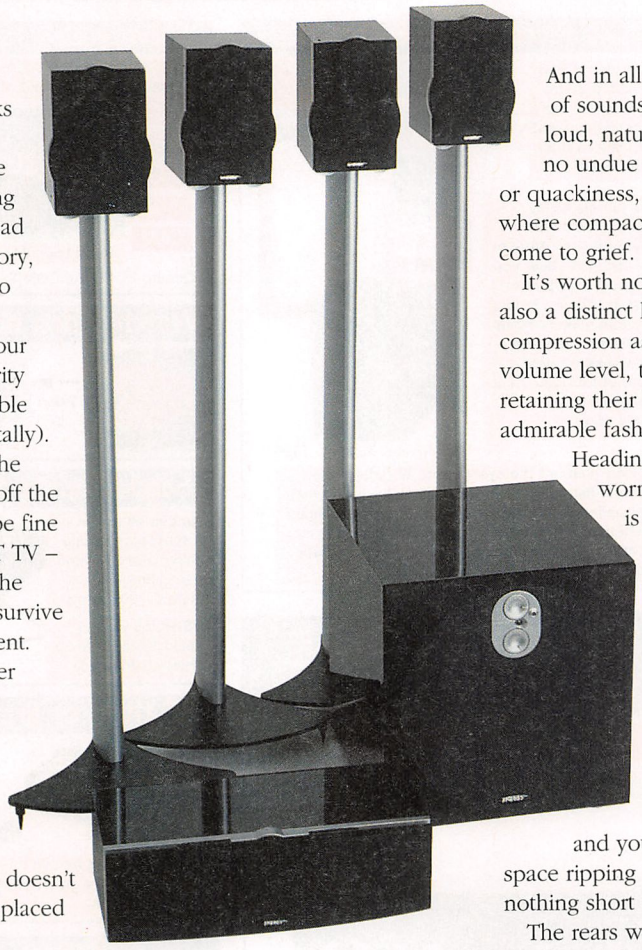
The Encore8 sub is an admirably compact device, which will be easy to hide away at the side of a TV. A rigid moulded plastic frame covers the front face, home to an otherwise hideous-looking module that carries rotaries for the bass level and low-pass filter, plus audio/video switching. The 8in magnetically shielded driver is covered by a non-removeable wire mesh grille and driven by a 150W amp.

Rearwards, we're talking high and low inputs (with a high-level output for your satellites), plus an input for a signal from an external crossover. Oh, and there's a massive 70mm flared port, too.

OPERATION

A word on positioning first. As stands go, this system's are rather poorly balanced.

GUIDE PRICE: £1,300



The bottom plate's triangular shape looks ace but isn't actually that stable. Filling the stands with something dense like sand or lead is absolutely mandatory, but you'll still need to virtually impale the stand's spikes into your floorboards for security (you can also run cable inside them, incidentally).

The stands bring the satellites up to 33in off the ground, which will be fine if you're using a CRT TV – the tweeter axes of the centre and sats will survive the slight misalignment. If you want to partner the satellites with a rear-projection TV, wall-mounting them using the integral brackets supplied with the speakers (the centre doesn't really sparkle when placed below the screen).

PERFORMANCE

Now the important stuff. The asteroid landing scene in chapter 16 of *Armageddon* (R2 DVD) is a stern test for any speaker system's treble drivers. On poorly balanced speaker systems the sound of the shuttle landing on zillions of stalagmites is enough to send your hands racing for your lugholes.

Not with the Encores. The collective sound of wave after wave of tumbling ice spikes is well separated, defined and generally easy to listen to. You just register the event, rather than acute discomfort.

The system also displays considerable grace in quieter moments. On the R2 DVD of *Contact*, chapter 11, there's a terrific scene where Jody Foster sits on the edge of a canyon pondering the great unknown. Crickets are chirruping all-round, there's a gentle breeze blowing in and... you're right there, sitting next to the cameraman as he pans around her. You can almost smell the eroded sandstone as the sun goes down.

Flip forward to chapter 12 and you're watching a pair of army helicopters, hugging the desert floor as they head to the radio observatory. This time you're in a third chopper, about 50ft above and behind, and wishing that you could get some more distance between you and the others. There's a palpable sense of speed and velocity, wind rushing past you as the blades cut through the air.

> **"Nothing short of sensational"**

For evidence of low-frequency ability head for chapter 32 and the second capsule drop scene. As the camera cuts from Ellie in the capsule to the guys in launch control there are a myriad number of abrupt transitions – from the calm of the control room to the incredible LF rumble of the 'rings' spinning under the capsule.

This sub is no one-note wonder, it tracks, undulates, hunts and varies like a good 'un. And in all the confusion of sounds, vocals ring out loud, natural and clear, with no undue artificial emphasis or quackiness, often an area where compact sub/sat systems come to grief.

It's worth noting that there's also a distinct lack of audible compression as you up the volume level, the satellites retaining their balance in admirable fashion.

Heading down the wormhole with Ellie is a blast. You feel like you're going down it with her. As she turns to her right to see space ripping past her the sound of it shifts from the front-right satellite to its rear partner, and you can feel the space ripping past you. It's nothing short of sensational.

The rears won't plunge to the lowest depths when fed with full-range Dolby Digital, but with a response that reaches down to 70Hz, ±2dB they've got enough weight to deal with most of the sonic challenges they will face.

And music? Stunning, in a word, but with one caveat A quick blast of REM's *Green* on CD shows that the Encore system hits all the right musical cues and images beautifully. Trouble is, the sub seems a little slow and plodding, even when you've switched it to its Music setting instead of AV. Dial it back and use it for mild reinforcement though, and the combo works fine.

CONCLUSION

Do we need to spell it out? Energy's onto another winner. Supremely well integrated with all of its constituent elements working for the common good, the Encore system is one of the best balanced, most communicative sub/sat systems we've heard in a long, long time. It's certainly a couple of classes above the Take 5, and so goes a long way to justifying its price tag.

In performance terms the system does everything it's supposed to. It rocks when it needs to, displays true lightness of touch when required, and conveys space, emotion and ambience with equal panache.

The fact that it also looks like a dream is just the icing on the cake. Keep an eye on this brand fellow cinephiles, Energy seems to know what shakes our tree ❐

VERDICT

Excitement, emotion and balls... this little system has it all, plus looks that Naomi would kill for

SPECIFICATIONS

FRONT	9/10
CENTRE	9/10
SURROUNDS	9/10
SUB	9/10
OVERALL	9/10

WHAT'S GOOD

Divine looks; stunning performance; near-perfect balance

WHAT'S BAD

Unstable optional stands; price

FEATURES

Encore2 (front, surrounds): frequency response 70Hz-22kHz; sensitivity 89dB; recommended amplifier power 125W RMS max; nominal impedance 8Ω; magnetically shielded
Encore1 (centre): frequency response 70Hz-22kHz; sensitivity 89dB; recommended amplifier power 125W RMS max; nominal impedance 8Ω; magnetically shielded
Encore 8 (subwoofer): frequency response 25-100Hz; high- and low-level inputs with loopthrough on both; 150W RMS internal amp; variable roll-off between 50-100Hz

DIMENSIONS

Encore2: 129(w) x 193(h) x 193(d)mm
Encore1: 403(w) x 122(h) x 198(d)mm
Encore8: 341(w) x 356(h) x 365(d)mm

WEIGHT

Encore2: 2.7kg
Encore 1: 4.5kg
Encore8: 13.6kg

CONTACTS

Energy ☎ 0147 324 0205
www.energy-speakers.com

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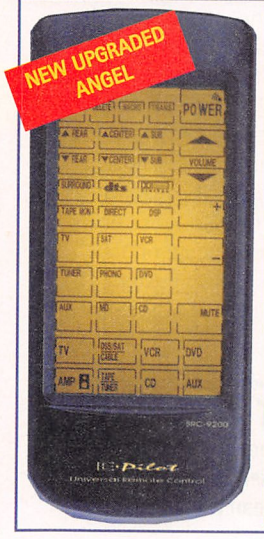

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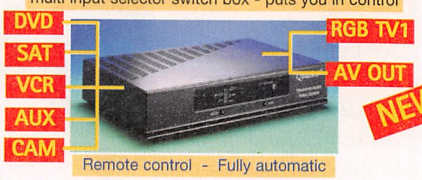

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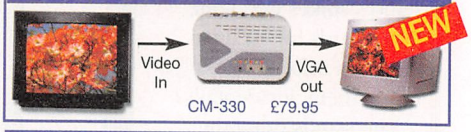

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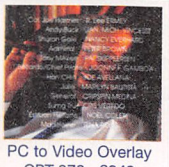

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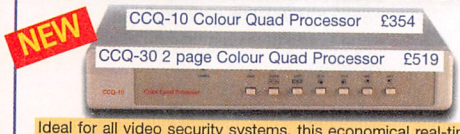

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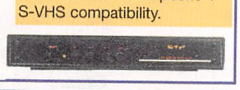

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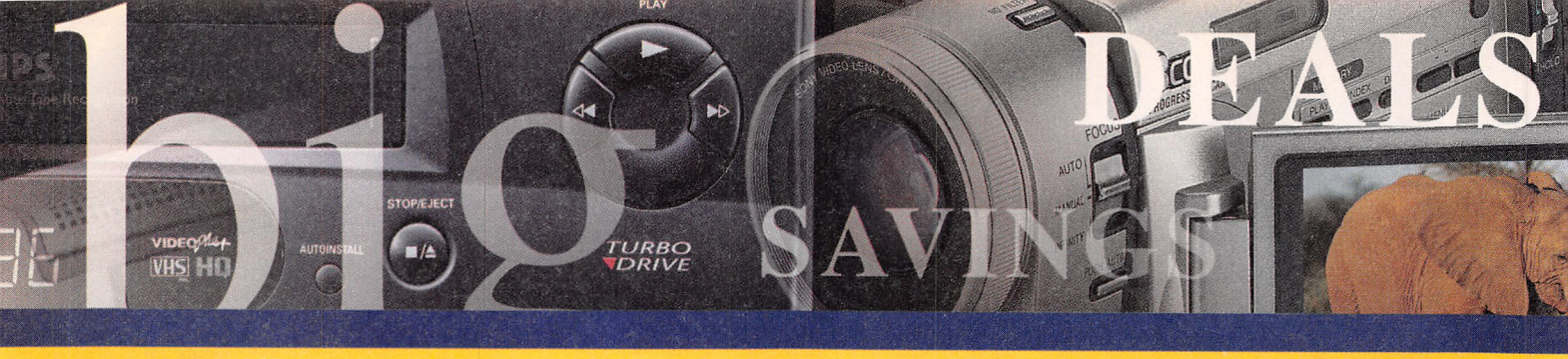

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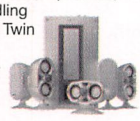

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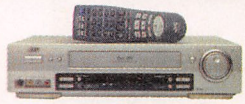

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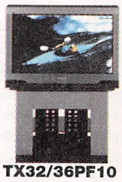

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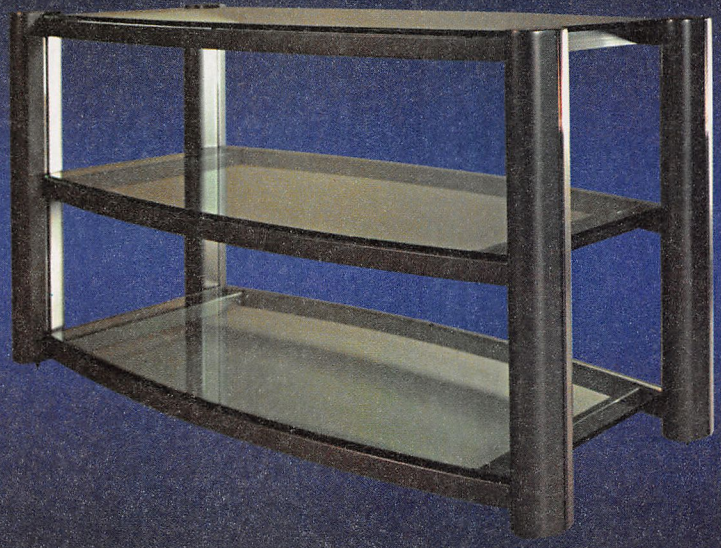

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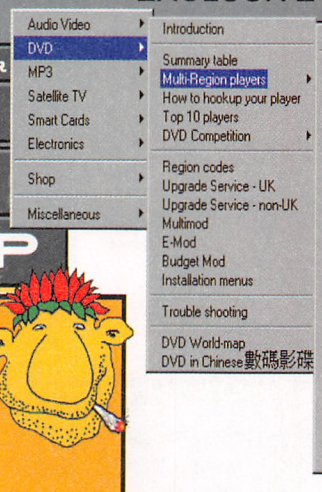

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Online comments: Feb 2000

Very impressed
Kenneth Coney, kenconey@clara.co.uk
...the muti region version was considerably cheaper than the R2 version is on the High street.

Simply excellent conversion!!!
John Kenna, pacjkenn@livjm.ac.uk
Three day turn around shows true customer service!!!

Solid service - Solid machine
Conrad Murkitt, conrad_murkitt@cookson.co.uk
I knew it would better than VHS but I didn't think it would be this good.

At Last - now I know what's going on in movies...
Dermot cullen
Set it up last night with no probs, flung in CONTACT and was happy as a pig in ... two secs later. Now with the aid of subtitles, I can follow a film!!!!

Especially the Zoom
kevin young, kevin@svb1.demon.nl
Take a look at the zoom feature on Zorro, and get a close up of the 1 frame of Katherine Zeta-jones' right breast !
Why do videos look so crap now ?!!?

Wow! Five stars just aint enough
Kevin Moore, kev_moore@lilly.com
I ordered on Monday and had it on my doorstep thursday afternoon!!! - now that's what I call service.

Brilliant!
Dave Jessop, davej@wabsnazm.karoo.co.uk
I can't fault it, both player and service is second to none.
It works like a dream. The picture quality is superbly sharp, and the sound... well, after watching DVDs on my PC for a year now I realise what I have been missing.

A Very professional Customer Service
Samuel Moore, scmdesign@aol.com
I'm highly impressed with the effenciency of the customer service, every email I sent for tech and sales enquirys was returned back the same day with very helpfull and coherent replys.

Region 1 heaven
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Techtronics take a bow! I love you!
John Roberts, jsmroberts@btinternet.com
Your quality of service is unique and, sadly, untypical of the majority of UK companies.

I've tried SO damn hard to fault this service....
Dan Brew, d.brew@abdn.ac.uk
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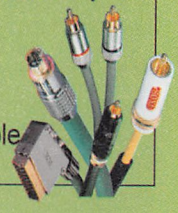

VCR

Note: Region 1 DVD discs can be backup by NTSC or multi-standard VCRs

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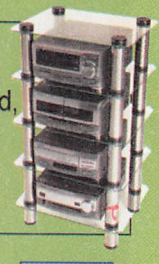

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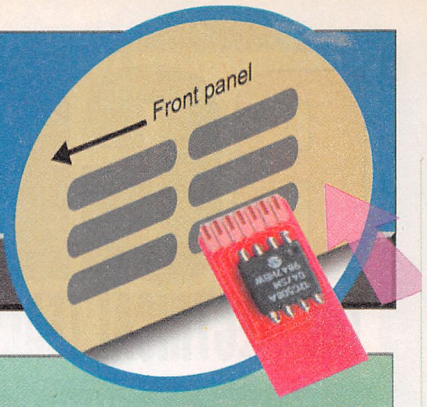

Standard Multimod DIY kits..... from £25

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Panasonic A120	.	1	No	£254
Panasonic A360	5	1-6	Yes	£385
Panasonic L-10	.	1-2	No	£939
Panasonic L-50	.	1-6	No	£759
Pioneer DVD-525	4	1-6	No	£299
Pioneer DV-626D	3	1-6	Yes	£399
Pioneer DVD-717	7	1-6	Yes	£449
Pioneer DVD-727	.	1-6	Yes	£649
Pioneer DVL-919E	.	1-6	Yes	£799
Pioneer LC10 portable	.	1-6	Yes	£799
Pioneer NS-DV1 System	.	1-6	Yes	£1189
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Samsung 909	.	1-6	Yes	£345
Sharp 700	.	1-6	No	£279
Sony DVP-CX850D	.	1-6	Yes	£549
Sony DVP-S325	8	1-6	Yes	£299
Sony DVP-S525D	9	1-6	Yes	£375
Sony DVP-S725D	1	1-6	Yes	£492
Sony DVP-S7700	.	1-6	Yes	£659
Sony F11	.	1-6	Yes	£429
Sony PBD-V30 Discman	.	1-4	No	£539
Toshiba 1009	.	1-6	Yes	£275
Toshiba 2109	2	1-6	Yes	£299
Toshiba 3109	10	1-6	No	£479
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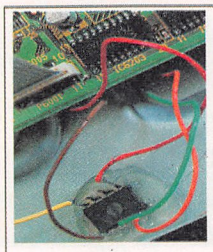

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page 59, Sep 1998

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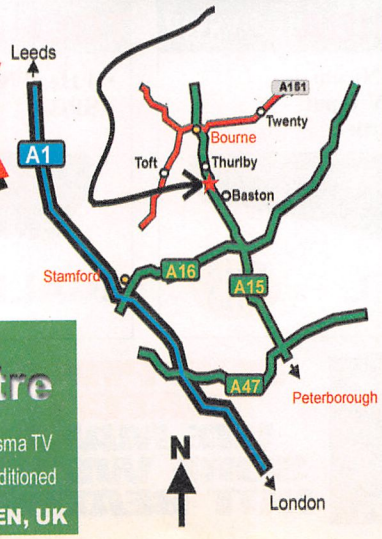

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multi-region FAQ

1 Why should I be bothered with Region 1 titles?
Region 2 titles currently (Oct 99) only total 850, while Region 1 is approaching 5000. In many cases, Region 1 titles also offer extra features, are generally cheaper, and available much earlier.

2 Can all players be upgraded with Multimod?
No. Multimods are available for most popular models, but not every model. We currently hold the biggest list of upgradable players in the world.

3 What is VCR Mode?
VCR Mode is essential to eliminate possible interference Macrovision may have on your projection TV, as well as allowing the DVD player to be connected to the TV via a VCR, without distorting the picture.

4 How do I switch regions on a player modified with the Multimod?
The most common way is: Put the player on Standby. Press a digit (eg. 1 for Region 1). Turn player on. And some multimods, the regional change is built into the menu system.

5 How difficult is it to solder a Multimod DIY kit?
Depends on the model of the player. Some are relatively easy, with only a few pins, while others may require explicit SMD skills and tools. More details on our website.

6 Are all Techtronics mod chips the same?
No. E-Mod is in a class of its own, since it is externally inserted and requires no soldering. This is by far the most elegant multi-region solution, and only works for most Pioneer models. On the other end of the spectrum, Sony Budget Mod represents a stripped-down, bare-bone, no-frills version of the Standard Multimod.

7 How does Multimod fare compared to other mod chips like the Paragon Hack?
- ☒ Paragon does not offer E-Mod
- ☒ In the case of most Sony Models, only Multimod allows you to skip(FF) FBI warning
- ☒ It is much easier to switch regions with Multimod
- ☒ Multimod will not disable parental control
- ☒ In many cases, only Multimod offers both "manual" and "auto" regional switch
- ☒ In many cases, only Multimod offers VCR Mode

8 Is it true that "D-MOD" requires no chip modification?
Absolute garbage. The so-called "D-MOD" is a hoax. It is a silly attempt to cash in on Techtronics' E-Mod.

9 I have heard reports of certain mod chips disabling RGB output. Does the Multimod do this?
No. None of our Multimod or E-Mod will disable RGB output or other features in the player.

10 How can the E-Mod not void the original manufacturer's warranty?
Because unplugged the E-Mod will return an upgraded player to its VIRGIN state (single region, without VCR Mode) without any trace of any modification.

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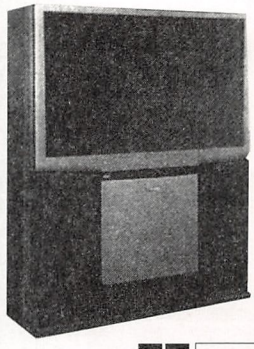

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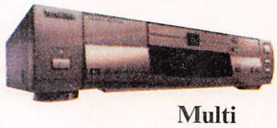

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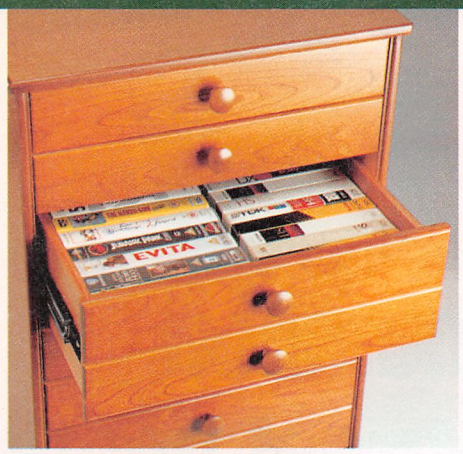

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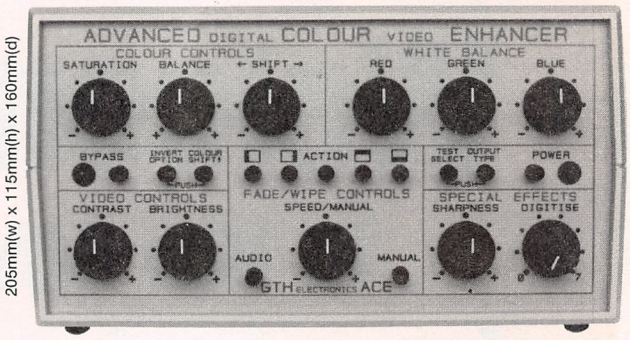

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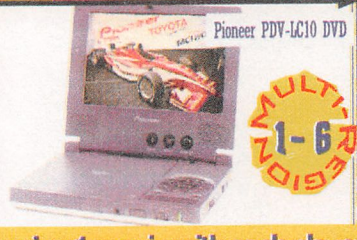

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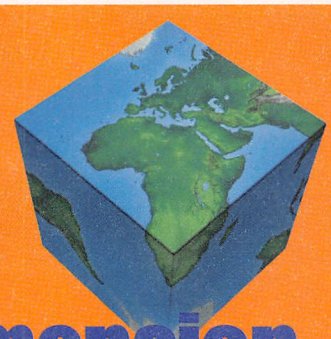

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LEAD STORIES

Whether your AV setup simply comprises a TV and VCR or is a full-on home cinema rig, the cables connecting your kit are crucial. In the concluding part of his cable round-up, Martin Pipe turns his critical gaze to video interconnects

In this test, we are looking at several different types of video cable. The first is the good old Scart. Most of the ones we're looking at are somewhat longer than average – up to 3m, against the standard equipment-supplied length of 1m. These will be of particular interest to anyone wanting to place equipment on the convenient flat surface atop a rear-projection TV, for which 1m is just not long enough!

All of the featured Scart-to-Scart cables screen the audio and video connections individually. Some, but by no means all, are compatible with RGB and S-video. These are the ticket to better pictures from set-top boxes and DVD players.

Some of the other cables have a Scart at one end, and another type of connector at the other. These are great for interfacing Scart equipment (TVs, for example) to non-Scart equipment (some DVD players, AV amps, etc). Other cables are designed solely for the purpose of getting an S-video signal (mini-DIN) into a TV with the best possible quality.

PROFIGOLD PGV8922, £10

RATING: 6/10

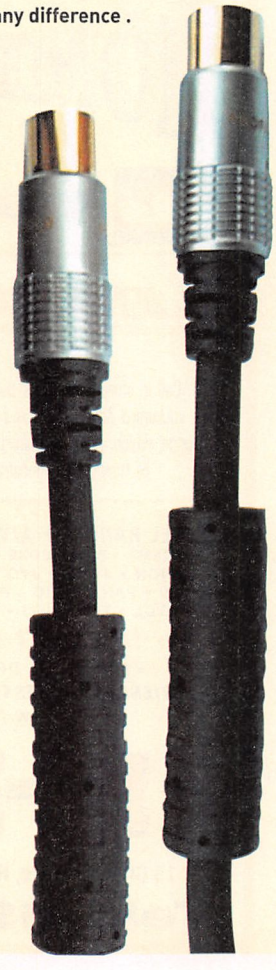
This is a 2m replacement for the flylead that links your VCR's RF output to the TV aerial input. The cable is double-screened to keep out interference, and there are also ferrite RFI (radio frequency interference) filters at either end. It is particularly useful for older equipment, which doesn't comply with the CE standards for EMC (electromagnetic compatibility).

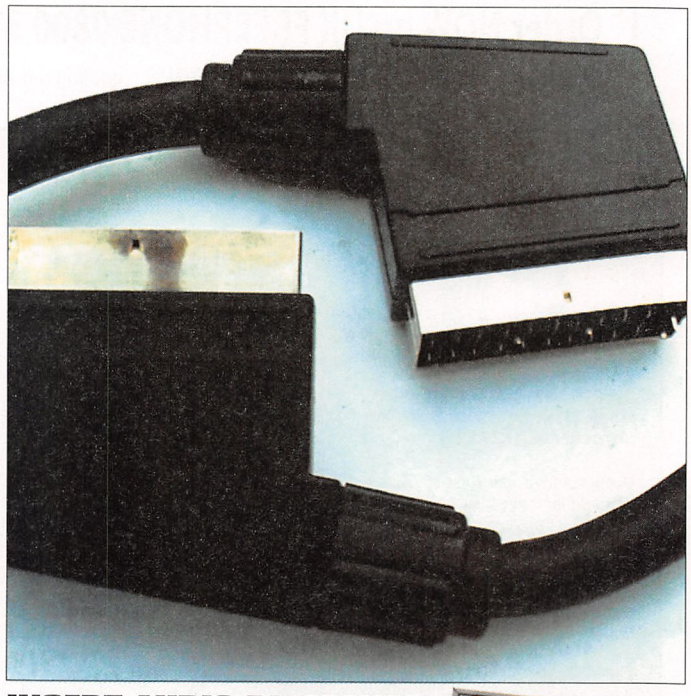
Newer equipment doesn't generate as many high-frequency stray emissions as older equipment does. These emissions may cause interference, which can appear as patterning on TV channels.

That said, the 5m version (£15) can also make a difference if there's a computer nearby. The high-speed digital electronics that constitute the average PC can chuck out quite a lot of noise, particularly if its case screening hasn't been done properly.

We ran two lengths of cable (one standard coax, the other the Profigold) near a PC. The Profigold certainly made a difference here! In most homes, the VCR and TV are joined with a short lead, as they're often on the same stand. In these cases, the Profigold should replace as much of the rooftop aerial downlead as possible.

First of all, though, try relocating your aerial cables away from any potential RFI trouble spots and see whether that makes any difference .





INSERT AUDIO REFERENCE SERIES SCART 1.2, £28

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

RATING: 9/10

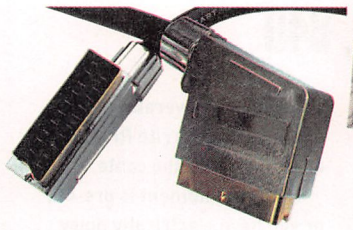
Most bundled Scarts are cheap and nasty, but not this 3m one. It's impressively made (inside and out), and the connectors ooze class. So too does the performance, with DVDs yielding a crisper picture.

Unfortunately, any sonic benefits are unlikely to be realised with the average TV sound system. The speaker and amps built into our rear-projection set are above average, but any improvement was lost on even these!

The length of this cable (3m) gives it practical benefits if you plan to locate your VCR and DVD player on a projection TV's flat top. 1m (£20) and 5m (£40) versions are also available.

LEKTROPACKS HCSL14/5M, £25 (5M)

RATING: 10/10



A fully wired 5m Scart cable for £25? Yes, that's right. What's more, it's well assembled from decent-quality components. The solid Scart plugs have gold-plated pins and shield. Internally, the audio and video input and output sections of the cable are isolated, with their own screens.

This cable is equally at home with satellite, VHS, DVD and S-VHS, and works exceptionally well with all of them. Compared with a bundled Scart cable, we noted a reduction in background noise, an increase in detail (with an RGB-wired DVD source) and more vibrant colours.

Sound-wise, we sensed an improvement in terms of spaciousness, and better transmission of the low-end clout typically associated with action movies. You will only get the full benefit of the HCSL14 on recordings, and even then only if the cable is used to link your source equipment (satellite, for example) to your VCR.

After all, the sound systems built into most TVs tend to be rather shoddy. You still get the picture benefits, though, and there's nothing to stop you from feeding the TV's audio output to your hi-fi system. This cable can't be faulted for the price, and is ideal for budget and mid-range home cinema installations.

One-and-a-half metre (£16) and 10m (£45) versions, among others, are also available.

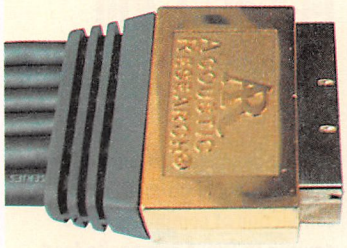
ACOUSTIC RESEARCH HT701, £35

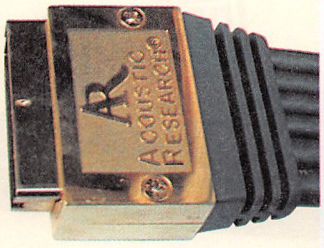
RATING: 8/10

The HT701 offers a lot of Scart lead for the money. Internal and external construction cannot be faulted, either. The cable is fully wired, and will cater for RGB and S-video interconnections.

Unlike cheap 'bundled' Scart leads that purport to be fully wired, the HT701's video and audio inputs and output wiring is individually screened. There's a welcome freedom from cross-talk, and a slight – but noticeable – improvement in overall picture quality.

Any sonic benefits can't be detected with the average TV sound system, but you should be able to hear a difference if the HT701 is used, for example, to link a Nicam VCR to a set-top box. In the respect of audio performance, one can expect similar results to those of the HT704, reviewed last month.

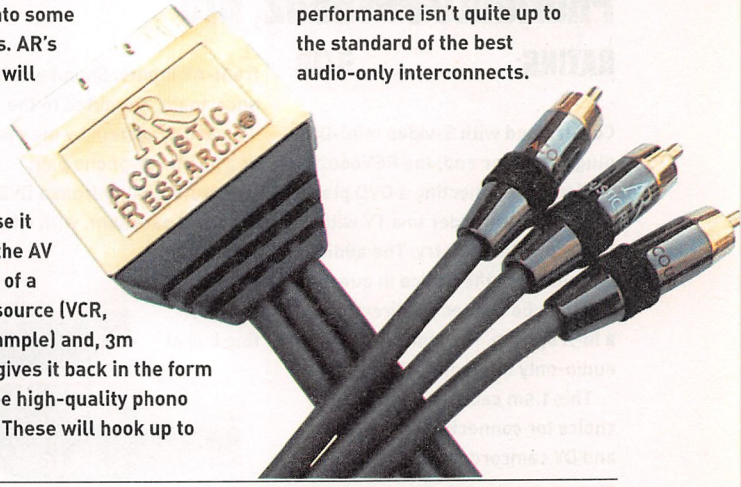




ACOUSTIC RESEARCH HT707, £35

RATING: 7/10

Very few AV amps make provision for Scart interconnects, which is a pity if you want to take advantage of the comprehensive source switching facilities built into some models. AR's HT707 will help you out here, because it takes the AV output of a Scart source (VCR, for example) and, 3m later, gives it back in the form of three high-quality phono plugs. These will hook up to just about every AV amp.



Picture and sound quality are both very good. Pictures are clean and rich, and sound is far superior to the cheap and nasty phono interconnects bundled with stereo equipment. However, its top-end performance isn't quite up to the standard of the best audio-only interconnects.

The inside of the Scart plug is, however, rather messy because of the switch wiring. Despite this, performance is reasonable.

High-quality composite video sources are perceptibly (just) clearer, while additional sonic details are brought out. Although better than bundled patch cords, it's not up to the standard of some of the other interconnects featured here. ▶

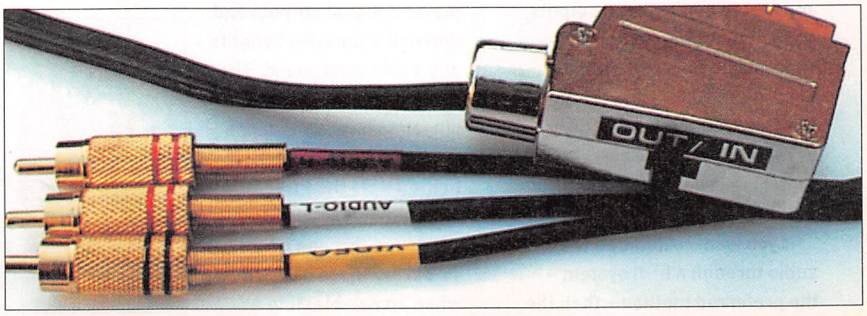
LEKTROPACKS HCSL5/5M, £20 (5M)

RATING: 6/10

This 5m Scart-to-phono AV is a rather innovative design. On the body of the Scart plug itself is a switch that converts the lead from output duties to input, or vice versa. This could be quite useful if you want a multi-purpose cable.

One day, you might want to feed your TV's audio into your hi-fi system. The next, a camcorder phono-to-VCR Scart connection might be needed for editing purposes. After all, not all VCRs have front-mounted AV inputs. The alternative would be a cable with six phono plugs, but these are more expensive.

On our sample, the switch position was labelled incorrectly, but thankfully the self-adhesive label could be reapplied correctly. External construction quality is fair.



PROFIGOLD PGV792, £40

RATING: 9/10

As with the PGV782, this 1.5m Scart interconnect is sealed. The plug casings are moulded (complete with a handy thumbgrip) onto the connectors at the ends of the cable, making repairs impossible. It's just as well, then, that it's so well-made.

The cable employed is quite chunky, and presumably contains separately screened sections for the various audio and video interconnections. These are covered by an overall screen and there are ferrite RFI filters at either end of the cable.

If your equipment is pre-CE, or you have electrically noisy computer equipment nearby, then this cable should be on your short list. We experienced no noise or interference problems whatsoever, while picture and sound quality both impress. There's a distinct improvement in picture clarity relative to standard Scarts, while the sound is pacey and dynamic.

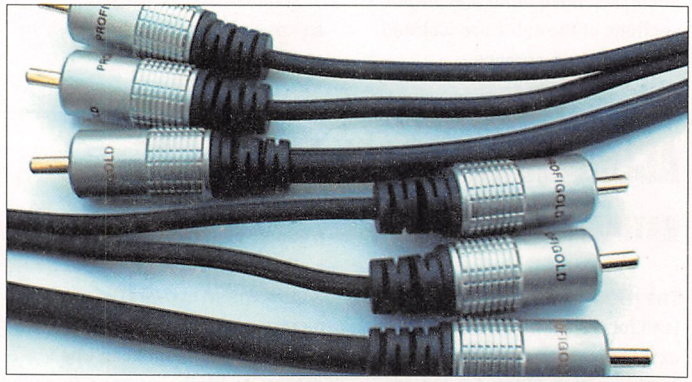
Three metre (£50) and 5m (£60) versions are also available, should you need the extra length.

PROFIGOLD PGV5302, £20

RATING: 7/10

A 1.5m 3-way phono-to-phono lead, with separate screened conductors optimised for stereo audio/composite video, and high-quality plugs. This type of cable is ideal for connecting DVD players, digital set-top boxes and analogue satellite receivers without S-video outputs to the source selectors of AV amplifiers.

Budget models don't, after all, cater for S-video. But what of the obvious choice of composite video source, VHS? Only older models, and ones intended for sale outside Europe, have phono AV connections. More recent models incorporate a Scart socket, and so will require a Scart-to-phono interconnect.



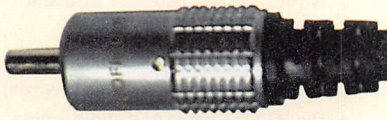
PROFIGOLD PGV6602, £15

RATING: 9/10

Constructed with S-video mini-DIN plugs at either end, the PGV6602 is perfect for connecting a DVD player or S-VHS camcorder to a TV with the requisite socketry. The audio outputs from the device in question can then be connected directly to a hi-fi system, via dedicated audio-only interconnects.

This 1.5m cable is also a good choice for connecting high-band and DV camcorders to a TV's front-AV inputs. Sound would, once again, be routed to the TV's sound system by means of a phono-to-phono pair.

Picture quality from a DVD source is excellent, with vibrant colours and bags of detail. A fine buy at the price, and a worthwhile upgrade from the makeweight cables supplied with most S-video equipment. If greater lengths are required, 3m (£20) and 5m (£25) versions are available.



PROFIGOLD PGV6032, £10

RATING: 8/10

This single phono-to-phono cable is presumably intended for the connection of composite video devices to TVs. A composite feed

PROFIGOLD PGV632, £25

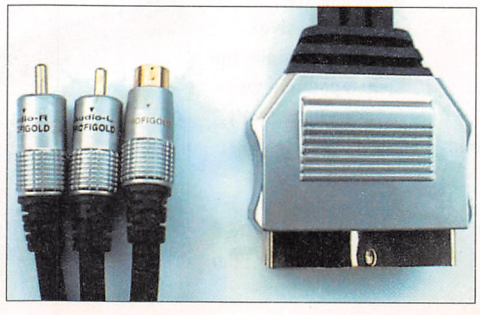
RATING: 8/10

If your DVD player doesn't have a Scart socket, the 1.5m-long PGV632 will take its S-video (mini-DIN) and stereo audio phono outputs, and present them to the appropriate pins of a sealed Scart plug. You'll have to select the TV's AV input manually, because automatic source switching is only available through Scart-to-Scart connections.

If you want to audition the audio through a hi-fi system – the preferred method – then the PGV632's phono connectors will be unused, and the player's audio outputs fed to the amp's inputs.

If your AV amp has Dolby Digital, then you could feed it from the player's digital outputs and derive the massive benefits of 5.1 surround sound. The advantage here is that the player's stereo output can then remain connected to the TV via the PGV632, so you'll still be able to get sound through your TV during those periods when an ear-blasting AV system would be overkill.

Although the picture improvement isn't as obvious as that of the more expensive Insert Dataline, there is a positive difference. Saturated colours look better, and you should see a tad more detail on larger screens.



In audio terms, the presentation is quite dynamic, although it doesn't fare quite as well as some of the dearer cables in terms of absolute detail. Another version of this S-video cable, the identically priced PGV532, goes the other way.

This version should be considered if you want to take advantage of the source-switching capabilities of upmarket AV amps with S-video socketry, but have Scart-only equipment (the Philips ONdigital set-top box, which can be switched to deliver an S-video output on its VCR Scart, is a good example).

Note that a direct RGB (Scart) or S-video connection is always the preferred choice for optimum picture quality, although you can route signals through an AV amp if your TV isn't well-endowed with Scarts.

AV amps also have video and audio outputs for VCRs, which may simplify recording/dubbing. You'll also need a phono-to-Scart cable to take the AV output selected by your amplifier to your TV set.

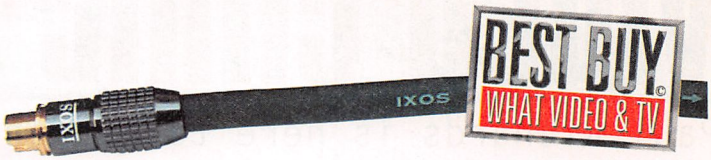
Another use of the PGV5302 is the direct connection of most camcorders to a TV's front-panel AV inputs. With the highest quality composite video source available – a Nicam TV tuner – we detected a slight improvement in picture and sound quality over a standard patch-cord. Visually, resolution was a tad better, and there was also an increased openness through our speakers.

from our DVD player showed a slight clarity improvement over a standard cable, but little difference was noted with VHS, largely because the latter format is of poor quality to start with.

We wired up the cable between one channel of a CD player and an amplifier, and were very pleased with the fast-paced and detailed sound. Buy a pair, it's still an affordable upgrade!

IXOS 124AV, £18

RATING: 10/10



Ixos has built up a good reputation for its audio interconnects in the hi-fi world. Now the company's turning its attention to AV and video interconnects, such as this 1m S-video cable, which is intended for DVD players and S-VHS VCRs. Although it's under £20, the build quality is superb. The cable has been put together exceptionally well, with gold-plated plugs of superior quality.

Performance is also excellent - indeed, it offers the best results of any S-video cable tested. There's an obvious improvement in detail from top-flight DVDs, and a perceptible reduction in noise. If your TV has an S-video mini-DIN, then this is the cable to go for.

Other applications include video editing and the connection of high-band camcorders to TVs. A 3m version (£25) is also available.

PROFIGOLD PGV782, £30

RATING: 9/10

This 1.5m Scart-to-Scart lead is unusual in that the cable is flat. Flat cables can be hidden under rugs and carpets, so this is worth bearing in mind if your TV and source equipment are some way apart. On the minus side, the plugs are moulded, so if something goes wrong, you'll have to chuck the whole lead away and buy a new one.

On the plus side, everything is individually screened to avoid mutual interference, and S-video and RGB are both catered for. There's a noticeable improvement over the average Scart lead in terms of video and audio. Pictures are clean, while sound is lively and enjoyable.

Three metre (£50), 5m (£60) and even 10m (£80) versions are also available, should you need the extra length.

INSERT AUDIO SIGNATURE SERIES DATALINE 750, £140

RATING: 10/10

Excellent, excellent, excellent! This 5m S-video-to-Scart cable routes only the vision signal to the TV. Audio is fed, via other cables, directly to a hi-fi or AV system – in other words, something capable of delivering the full sonic benefit.

The Dataline 750 is exceptionally well made, but caters only for S-video. With a DVD source, the difference over a standard 'S-' lead is quite startling. On a 52in rear-projection screen, we could see richer and more vibrant colours, an increase in fine detail and a drop in background noise.

Warmly recommended, if you've got decent source equipment and a large-screen TV. 1m (£40) and 3m (£90) versions are also available.

LEKTROPACKS HCSL11/5M, £25 (5M)

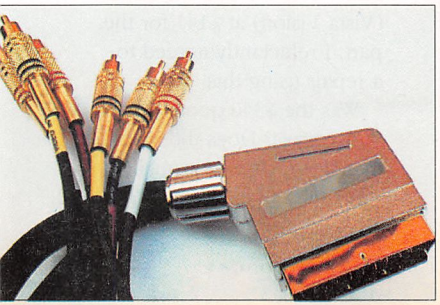
RATING: 7/10

Intended to bridge the gap between AV amps and Nicam VCRs, this well-made Scart-to-6-phono interconnect caters for stereo audio and composite video input and output. It's also an affordable solution to the problem of connecting non-Scart (imported, or older) video equipment to TVs.

The 5m length of the review sample should be sufficient for most living rooms, although shorter lengths are available. The 1.5m version is just £19, while a 3m cable will set you back £22.

The VCR's output can, courtesy of the cable's phono sockets, be fed to the amplifier's AV source selector (VCR in). At the same time, the VCR inputs can be plugged into the amplifier's AV output (VCR out) sockets. If other AV sources are connected to the amp, then you can utilise the flexible dubbing and source selection options on offer. If a tuner is connected to (or built into) your amp, then this cable will help you harness your Nicam VCR's potential as a high-quality audio recorder with a maximum continuous recording time of 10hr (E500, LP mode).

Performance is fair, with a pleasant sonic character, and a moderate increase in picture detail from off-air sources, but is hardly groundbreaking. An ideal match, then, for budget installations in which the AV amps and sources make no concessions to S-video.



CONTACTS

Connections (UK): ☎ 01487 832424
Acoustic Research (c/o Recoton): ☎ 0161 702 5010
www.recoton-europe.com
Van den Hul: ☎ 020 8997 4280
www.vandenhul.com
Ixos: ☎ 0121 776 7616
www.ixos.co.uk
Insert Audio/Supra (c/o Glaive): ☎ 01622 664070
Profigold (c/o Bandridge): ☎ 020 8543 3633
Lektropacks: ☎ 08700 711911
www.lektropacks.co.uk

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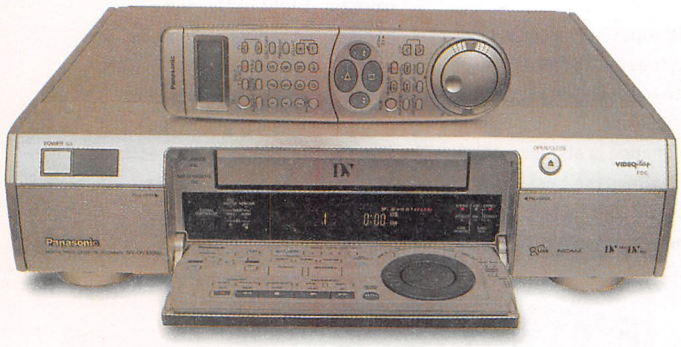
Paul Richards is here to answer all your video and AV problems



Panny pattern problem

UGLY MOSAIC CRACKING UP

I bought my Panasonic NV-DV 10000B in 1998, and use it for both editing and off-air recording. After a few months, the recordings broke up into mosaic-like patterns and the sound disappeared on playback.

I returned it to the dealer, who sent it back to Panasonic. When it was returned, I was informed that the Sony tapes I used were the problem. I now use Panasonic tapes, but am amazed that the VCR couldn't handle tapes from another manufacturer. Did I buy from a bad batch?

Brian Lait
Brigg, Lincs

Panasonic's advice suggested that the Sony tapes were indeed at the root of the problem, and that when editing it may be necessary to clean the heads as frequently as every two hours.

This sort of problem is associated with faulty batches of tape (analogue and digital) so yes, it's possible that you had a bad batch of Sony DV tapes. Frequent head-cleaning should not be necessary, nor is it recommended.

RUIN BY REMOTE?

Our seven-year-old Philips TV is acting up. When switched on, it makes no sound for about 15min. In the top left-hand corner 'F7' appears, while 'P1' appears to top right. The picture then disappears until you select a channel via the remote.

We don't have the original remote control, but instead use a replacement. Might this be the cause of our problem?

Mrs A Constable
Lerwick, Shetland

The initial loss of sound isn't due to the pattern-type remote control. This fault lies buried inside the TV's electronics, where a diode or IC is typically responsible, though I cannot be more specific without the chance to examine and test the set. Take the set to a service shop.

LOAD OF OLD TOSH?

After reading your report on the Toshiba 32ZD98B TV (Jan '99 issue, p86), I decided to buy one. I have since returned this set and its replacement due to a fault. Both TVs suffered from dark patches on light backgrounds, such as blue skies.

A friend of mine also has this TV, which exhibits exactly the same symptoms.

Did your test model not have this fault? Toshiba says that all widescreen TVs have this problem, but some are worse than others. Does this problem increase with continued use of the set?

Despite my bad experiences, I found the 32ZD98B to be an excellent set in every other way, and will buy another one when Toshiba has eradicated the problem.

TM Howell
Staffs

Toshiba's flatscreen may be prone to 'hot bulge'

The picture tube fitted to Toshiba's 32ZD98B does tend to suffer from this 'hot-bulge' effect in its invar shadowmask, which is actually dome-shaped behind the flat screen. Later batches of production are better, and the problem is still being worked on. Hopefully, future versions of this model (excellent in other ways) will be free of this particular gremlin.

Meanwhile, for other readers with this problem, some relief can be had by running the picture at slightly lower levels of brightness and contrast. It's unlikely that the symptom will worsen with use of the set.

MACRO MESS

My Wharfedale DVD-750 DVD player is connected via Scart to a Panasonic HD610 VCR, which in turn is connected to a (rather ancient, Scart-less) big-screen TV by an RF lead.

When watching a DVD the picture gets distorted and its brightness flutters. According to a helpline technician this is caused by the VCR's Macrovision copy protection system.

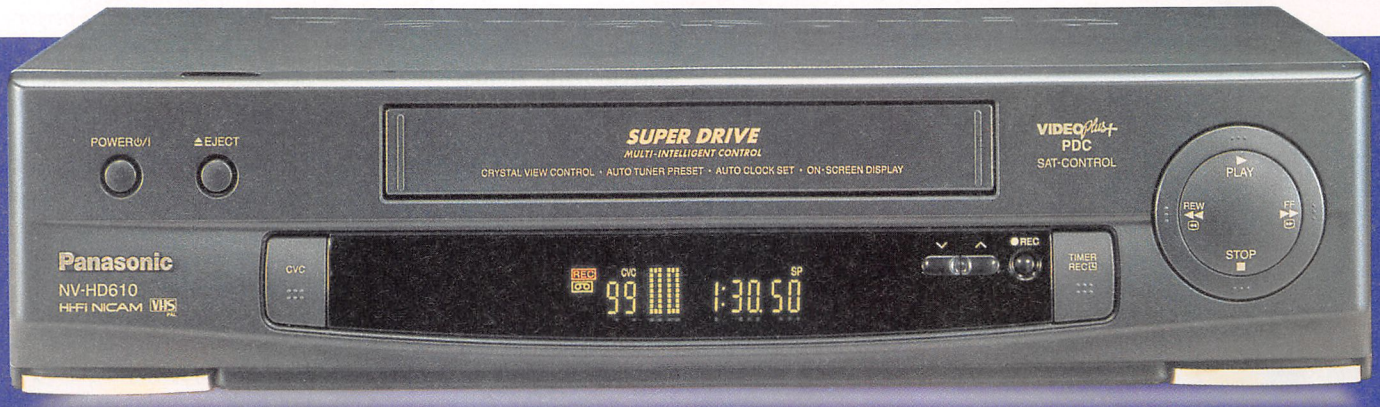
My friend's two-year-old Ferguson VCR (cheap compared to my

WHEELER DEALER

My local dealer quoted me £94 for an upper drum (video and audio heads) for my JVC HR-S4700 S-VHS deck. A few days later it revised the cost of the part to £340, having checked, apparently, with JVC's spares department. It also offered a 'pattern' head (Vista Vision) at £141 for the part. I reluctantly agreed to a repair using this.

Was the £340 quote for the JVC part correct? Does the Vista head match JVC's part for quality?

Send your queries to *Video Clinic, What Video & TV*, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU, or e-mail: WhatVideoClinic@aol.com. For a guaranteed personal reply, post your query with a cheque for £3.95, made payable to Paul Richards, together with an SAE. The answers to selected questions will be printed in the magazine. Unfortunately, we are unable to reply to every e-mail.



Panasonic) only activates the copy protection when recording from a DVD. Can I avoid this distortion/brightness problem without having to buy a TV with a Scart socket?
Heinz Sigler
via e-mail

The VCR is not adding copy-protection to the signal on its way through, it's already coming out of the DVD. It normally only causes trouble when you try to transfer DVD programmes to tape. Neither is the lack of a Scart socket on the TV a real factor, except to reflect its age! The VCR acts as a convenient RF modulator.

The problem lies with the TV, which is unduly sensitive to Macrovision 'spiking' of the sync pulses in the video signal. You can either have a technician look at it for diagnosis and possible modification, or you can use a sync-cleaner box from (for example) Keene on ☎ 01332 830550.

Do S-VHS heads have a shorter life than VHS ones?
B Hammond
Bournemouth

Although an S-VHS-plus-audio Hi-Fi head drum is about as expensive as you can get in a VCR, the prices you've been quoted are way over the top as far as I'm concerned. JVC's expected retail price is far below this figure, based on the mark-up percentage it uses to quote a retail figure on its spares invoices. Even the Vista head quote is a lot more than I would charge.

The Vista head will probably not perform quite as well as the JVC one, nor last as long, but it should see the rest of the machine out. In my experience S-VHS head life is marginally shorter than for standard VHS ones, other things being equal.

REFRESHING ENQUIRY

I'm about to buy a Sony 32in Pro-Logic TV, either the 100Hz KV-32DS60 or the 50Hz KV-32DS20. The only difference between the two models is the screen refresh rate, but is the £300 price difference really justified?

Do you think that 100Hz technology is here to stay?
Steve Parker,
via e-mail

100Hz will see you into the future

Both of these sets use the Trinitron Wega glassware (the best ever in a direct-view tube in my opinion), and both give excellent pictures. In the 100Hz DS-60 the extra £300 buys you a comb filter, the digital 50-100Hz convertor electronics, and beefier deflection circuits to cope with the higher scan rate.

The benefits of 100Hz scanning are an apparent increase in definition and a complete absence of picture flicker, most obvious in large bright areas, especially on such a big screen. I think it's worth the extra, but you must judge for yourself, ideally with both sets together in a Sony showroom.

Yes, I believe that 100Hz technology is here to stay, but will not oust 50Hz displays in the foreseeable future. See also Anti-Gun Sony, *below.* ➤

High-priced head case

video clinic

No guarantee if buying abroad

MALAY MISTAKE?

I'm thinking of buying the Panasonic NV-DS11 camcorder. I'm going to Australia soon and will stop off in Malaysia. Would it make sense to buy the cam at the Malaysia airport?

I'm sure it will be cheaper, but I have some concerns. Will it have a UK warranty? Can the charger's voltage be converted? Will it have the same spec as a UK cam? And are English language instruction manuals available here?

Gary Maggot
Peterborough

Both Australia and Malaysia use the same PAL/625/50 TV system as we do in the UK, so there will be no problems with compatibility or (at least if you buy a model which is sold in the UK) with spares and service. Panasonic products have a Europe-wide but not worldwide guarantee, so there's no free service in the first year back here in the UK.

Mains units/chargers are all universal 100-240V, so the most you'll need there is a plug adaptor. Obviously the Australian version will have an English instruction book, but I don't know about a Malaysian market one! You can always get an English language one later if necessary.

AERIAL VIEWS

Are there different qualities of TV aerial coaxial cable? If so, are the benefits of high-quality cable similar to those of other AV interconnects? Who manufactures it and how much does it cost?

TV reception in my area is poor, so I hoped better cable might improve matters.

Gerry Moore
Penrith

Coax cable comes in two basic forms, one for UHF (terrestrial) TV aerial feeds, and another for use with satellite dishes. There are various grades (reflected in their prices) of each, terrestrial cable having a wider range of qualities.

Satellite cable has lower losses than TV aerial cable, but is more expensive. It also has the great advantage of double-screening for interference suppression, so yes, I can recommend its use for 'difficult' terrestrial reception areas.

Use CT100 or SAT 100 cable, which you can buy at about 60p per metre. Even so, the most effective way of pulling in weak signals is a large high-gain aerial and perhaps a masthead amplifier.

DVD DESIRED

I own a nine-month-old Toshiba 32MW7DB TV and a three-year-old Mitsubishi HS-561V VCR. I now want a DVD player, but I'm getting conflicting advice about which player is compatible with my TV.

Most of the people I speak to have little or no technical knowledge (ditto myself). My budget is £500.

RD Burgess
Waterlooville, Hants

Most DVD players will work with any TV without compatibility, hookup or matching problems, as long as any special needs like RGB and NTSC capability (where relevant) are met.

Even so, for you I would recommend a Toshiba DVD player for the simple reason that it's very good: model SD-2109, now available for less than £300 from many of the advertisers in these pages. It has good build quality and excellent sound and vision performance.

Hook it up with an RGB link for consummate picture performance, and if you think you may need Region 1 playback, buy a ready modified one from Paul Taylor (☎ 01733 352122) for £299 including postage. Spend the rest of your budget on discs!

ANTI-GUN SONY

I have, until now, been very happy with my five-month-old Sony KV-32FX60 widescreen TV. I recently treated myself to one of my favourite PlayStation games, *Time Crisis*, and a G-CON light gun to go with it. I was shattered to find that the gun didn't work – no cross-hairs, so no aiming!

No gun control in sight

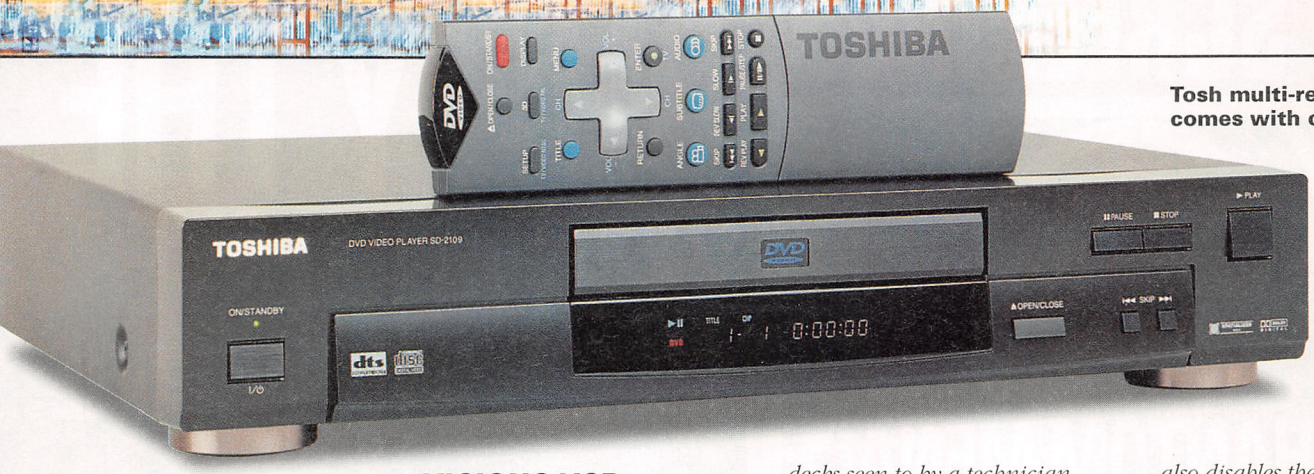
TOP TV TIPS?

I have about £1,500 to spend on a new TV, but I don't know what to buy. I've currently got a Hitachi Opus 21in Nicam set, with which I'm reasonably happy. There's nothing wrong with it, I just want bigger and better. I have a Sony SLV-E710 Nicam VCR, a Wharfedale DVD750 player and get digital TV through my local cable provider.

Can you recommend anything to look at, or is technology moving so fast now that I should wait a year and see what's on offer then?

Trevor Kenney
via e-mail

Since you have a DVD and stereo-capable VCR, I would regard a surround sound system as essential. As you don't mention owning one, I recommend a 28in or 32in widescreen Pro-Logic set, depending on the size of your room and your viewing distance.



Tosh multi-region only comes with chips

I have since tested the gun and game on other sets with no problems. Is it because of the 100Hz scanning on my Sony TV? If so, is there any solution? If not, shouldn't Sony warn customers about this incompatibility between these two expensive and exotic products?

Wei Ho
via e-mail

Yes, it is because of the 100Hz scanning system in your TV and no, there is no apparent solution to this problem at present. It seems that the PlayStation looks for a 50Hz 'flash-rate' in the image picked up by the gun. You can try adjusting the three options in the digital mode settings of the picture control menu, but it's unlikely to cure the problem.

VICIOUS VCR

I have two JVC HR-880EK VHS decks dating from 1992. I do a lot of off-air recording, and control both decks with one remote control using its A-B switch. The VCRs are getting a bit old, and one has started to chew tapes up.

I can't find any VHS decks which have the remote A-B switching and LCD-window facility. Are there any?

Most VCRs are now controlled via onscreen menus, a pain in the rear in my opinion! Via my LCD display I can program both decks without switching on the TV. Should I just get my JVC machines serviced?

Gino Marcangelo
via e-mail

No, there aren't any current VCRs with these remote control facilities. I would advise you to get your existing decks seen to by a technician. Their build quality is way above anything available now. They are good performers and properly serviced should last for years.

By far the most common cause of tape-chewing in these decks is tarnished contacts in the mode (slide-encoder) switch, so it would be a good idea to have this replaced in both. That and a thorough set up/clean-and-service will probably be all that's required, and not too expensive.

MOD MOOTED

I recently purchased a Toshiba SD-2109 DVD player. Is there a handset hack to make this deck multi-regional, or will I have to get it modified by a specialist?

L Brook
Wakefield

No handset hack, but it can be done electronically. The mod also disables the Macrovision anti-copy feature. Paul Taylor (☎ 01733 352122) offers an 8-pin chip for your own engineer to fit at £34. It will supply and fit for £64, and do the same with two-way carriage for £79.

Futuretronic's approach is to download software into the existing memory IC via an interface connection for £50 at-the-door, or £80 with courier transport both ways. The company can be reached on ☎ 020 8961 9988.

DRUM MAJOR

My 18-month-old Akai VSG875 VCR has developed a picture fault. Sometimes there are short white streaks on screen during playback.

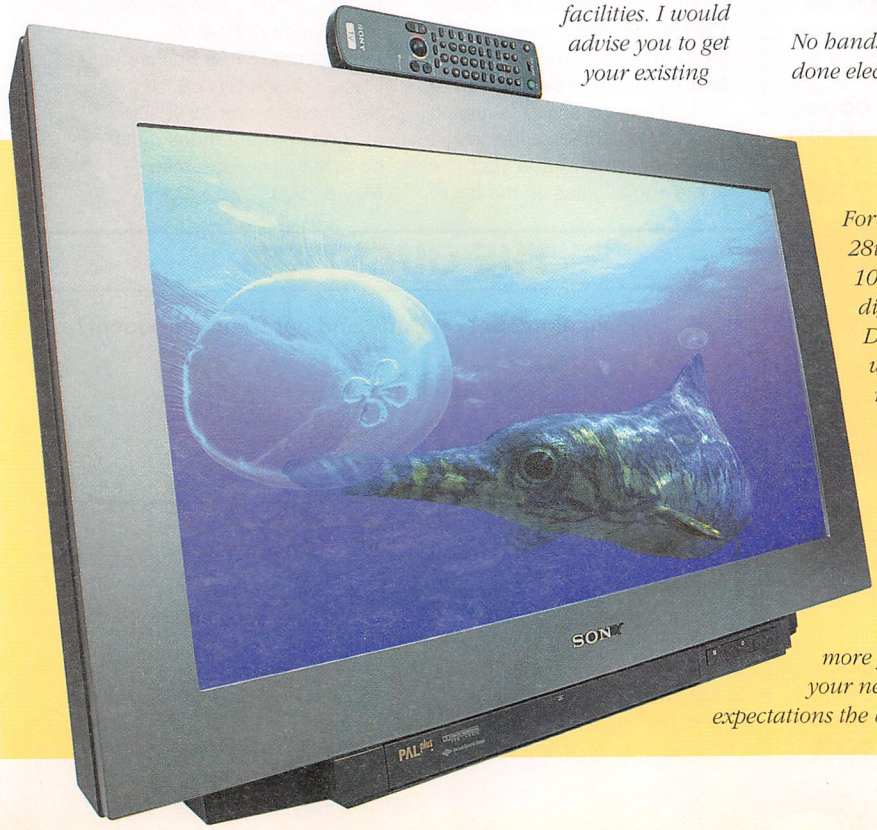
It seems as if the tape loses contact with the head at the same point on each scan. I don't want to use a cleaning tape as I believe these work by abrasion, and am afraid that repeated cleaning will cause wear.

Daniel Trangmar
via e-mail

What you are seeing is probably not due to mistracking or a need for head cleaning. Because the symptom isn't always present, dirt on the lower drum periphery is unlikely to be the cause either.

Assuming the streaks take the form of little 'comet tails', static discharge of some sort is most likely to be responsible. Have the dealer dismantle the upper drum assembly, then clean and re-tension the grounding brush in there.

If that doesn't cure it you could be facing a big repair bill for some component of the drum assembly, I'm afraid.



For starters, look at the 28in Sony KV28FD1, a 100Hz machine with digital comb filter and Dolby Pro-Logic, for which you would need a separate amplifier. For a 32in set I recommend the Toshiba 32WD98B and the Sony KV32FX20, the latter at an excellent price. For other readers, the more you can tell me about your needs, budget and expectations the better I can help you.

VHS SCREENINGS

THE PHANTOM MENACE

Presentation: Fullscreen & widescreen, Dolby Surround
Price: f/s £16.99, w/s £17.99
Movie: A rude awakening for those who grew up adoring George Lucas's epic saga, the shock being that, if anything, the series has regressed. The technology may have advanced but script-wise *The Phantom Menace* is a childish travesty populated by lazy, insulting stereotypes thinly disguised as aliens.

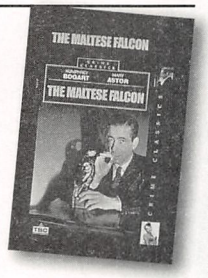
Key moments in the dull, dialogue-heavy plot occur by accident (including the climax!), while the assorted cast of both good and bad actors sleepwalk through their roles like robotic mannequins.
Transfer: Crying out for DVD treatment – but that's not going to happen for years according to Lucas – viewers will have to make do with this truncated fullscreen VHS version or a widescreen edition, each extremely overpriced.

Picture quality is slightly grainy, even for VHS, but colour and detail are first-rate. Due to the sheer number of digital effects, however, the whole film has a somewhat unreal sheen.

Audio, of course, is excellent within the limits of Pro-Logic, the pod race being the best showcase for surround effects. **IC**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★★
Movie	★☆☆☆☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

THE MALTESE FALCON



Presentation: Fullscreen, Dolby Surround
Rental
Movie: The search is on for a jewel-encrusted statue, as laconic private dick Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) outwits various baddies hunting the objet d'art. An all-star cast includes Mary Astor, Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet. Add master director John Huston to the mix and you've got a timeless classic. Sheer quality in all departments.
Transfer: Made almost 60 years ago *The Maltese Falcon* holds up particularly well, principally due to the work of cameraman Arthur Edeson. The print isn't always crystal clear, but that's only to be expected.

Adolph Deutsch's music score helps bowl the story along and, although limited, the sound is well marked. **JS**

Picture	★★★☆☆
Sound	★★★☆☆
Movie	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★☆

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: SEASON TWO PART ONE

Presentation: Fullscreen, Dolby Surround
Price: £14.99 each, box set £34.99

TAPE 1:

When She Was Bad
Following a successful battle with the Master and her 'death' at the end of series one, Buffy is rapidly going off the rails. Things worsen when the Chosen One decides to bring the Master back to life.

Episode Rating ★★★★☆

Some Assembly Required
Someone is killing high school girls for body parts and Cordelia is next on their list in a touching homage to *The Bride Of Frankenstein*.

Episode Rating ★★★★☆

School Hard
The void left in Sunnydale by the Master's absence is quickly filled by newcomers Spike and Dru, the vampiric equivalent of Sid and Nancy. Spike quickly takes matters into his own hands and launches a surprise attack on Buffy's school during Parent's Evening.

Episode Rating ★★★★★

Inca Mummy Girl
More trouble for Xander as he falls in love with another supernatural being. Following his crush on a giant preying mantis in series one, he now has his sights set on an exchange student who is actually an ancient mummy.

Episode Rating ★☆☆☆☆

WIN A BUFFY SEASON 2 BOX SET!

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment is offering four lucky *What Video & TV* readers the chance to win their own *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* Season Two Box Set (Part One).

To stand a chance of winning this fabulous box set (on sale March 6), simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard or a sealed-down envelope, and send it to 'Buffy Season 2 Part 1 Competition', *What Video & TV*, WV Publications, 57-59 Rochester Place, London NW1 9JU. You must be over 15 years of age to enter. Entries must be received no later than May 5 2000.

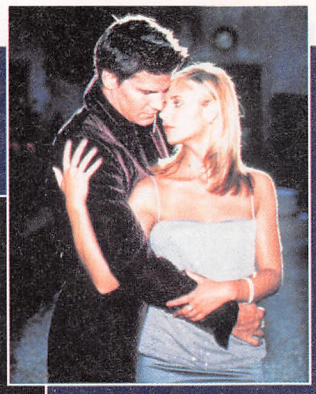
THE QUESTION

Which local nightspot do Buffy and her friends frequent?

A. Hooters
B. The Bronze
C. The Gold

RULES OF ENTRY

1. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
2. There are no cash substitutes.
3. Employees of WV Publications and Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment are not eligible to enter.
4. Only one entry per household please.
5. Entries must be marked 'Buffy Season 2 Part 1 Competition' to qualify.
6. Closing date: May 3 2000.



TAPE 2:

Reptile Boy

Looking for some fun and relaxation at a frat party with Cordelia, Buffy finds herself drugged and prepared for sacrifice to an ancient reptile demon.

Episode Rating ★★★☆☆

Halloween

A magic spell creates havoc as people take on the attributes of their Halloween costumes. Willow becomes a ghost, Xander becomes the next Rambo, and Buffy is turned into a simpering princess. Things worsen as Spike makes the most of this opportunity to rid himself of the Slayer.

Episode Rating ★★★★★

Lie To Me

An old flame from Buffy's past transfers to Sunnydale High and reveals that he knows all about her life as a Slayer. However, his real motive for coming to town was to hand Buffy over to Spike in return for immortality.

Episode Rating ★★★★☆

The Dark Age

The reappearance of a face from the Halloween episode means that Rupert Giles' dark past is finally catching up with him. When a demonic force then takes control of Ms Calendar, what hope does Rupert have of saving her?

Episode Rating ★★★★☆

TAPE 3:

What's My Line Parts 1 & 2

Things get incredibly complicated as Buffy contemplates her future, Spike hires a group of supernatural hitmen, Xander and Cordelia get together, and Buffy comes face-to-face with the replacement who was activated when she 'died'.

Episode Rating ★★★★★

Ted

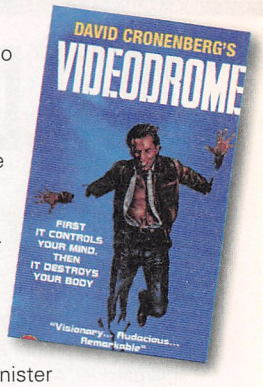
Mrs Summers has apparently found her ideal boyfriend in the intelligent and kind Ted, and it doesn't take long for Buffy's friends to take a shine to the newest face in the Summers household. However, Buffy remains unconvinced, and things get complicated when Ted threatens to tell Buffy's mother about her life as the Slayer.

Episode Rating ★★☆☆☆

Transfer: Once again demonstrating its superiority to most broadcast material, *Buffy...* Season 2 looks and sounds even better than Season 1. The deep, rich colour palette is handled with consummate ease, while the soundstage boasts some well-placed effects. A fine effort. **AvB**

Picture	★★★★½
Sound	★★★★½
Overall	★★★★★

VIDEODROME



Presentation: Fullscreen, stereo
Price: £5.99
Movie: James Woods is well suited to the role of a cable TV executive looking for audience-grabbing material to increase his share of the market. What he finds is the sinister show *Videodrome*.

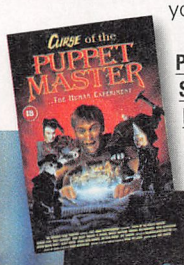
Fans of director David Cronenberg will recognise his familiar themes of sex, violence and images in this interesting mixture of horror, thriller and hallucinatory special effects. The blending of fantasy and reality is sometimes confusing, but this is a well-made curio with thought-provoking ideas.
Transfer: *Videodrome* benefits from Cronenberg's sense of colour, with a rich, well-balanced palette. Sound is well used to contribute to the film's overall sense of menace, but the tonal quality is not particularly outstanding. **JS**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★☆☆
Movie	★★★☆☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

CURSE OF THE PUPPET MASTER

Presentation: Fullscreen, stereo
Rental
Movie: The *Puppet Master* series has, until now, relied on a fairly safe concept – little puppets with blades for hands and drills for heads come alive and kill people. So why have they messed with it and made the little blighters nice in this interminable, plot-less sequel?

The film now lacks all the basic essentials of a low-budget horror film (there's no gratuitous nudity, very little violence, few effects sequences and no tension), and makes absolutely no sense at all. This is, without doubt, the very worst movie ever made.
Transfer: *Curse...* looks and sounds good enough. Steering between the speakers is rather limited, but the dialogue is well handled (not that you'd ever want to hear it). The picture looks fairly sharp, but is ultimately as dull as you would expect. **AvB**



Picture	★★☆☆☆
Sound	★★☆☆☆
Movie	☆☆☆☆☆
Overall	★☆☆☆☆

THE BIG SLEEP

Presentation: Fullscreen, mono
Rental
Movie: Originally released in 1946, this classic film from director Howard Hawks simply oozes class. Supercool Humphrey Bogart plays Raymond Chandler's worldly-wise shamus Philip Marlowe, who gets mixed up in blackmail and murder when hired by the unconventional Sternwood family.

The highlights are his scenes with Lauren Bacall, in which sexual innuendo is raised to new levels. Overall, a not-to-be-missed gem.
Transfer: Despite *The Big Sleep*'s age, image quality holds up very well, with a relatively clean transfer. Again, being over 50 the sound quality doesn't improve when amplified by modern gadgetry, but the Max Steiner score adds effectively to the atmosphere.

Picture	★★★☆☆
Sound	★★★☆☆
Movie	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★☆

DVD SCREENINGS

WILD WILD WEST

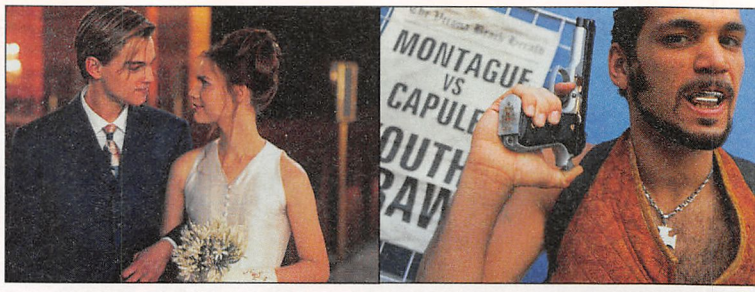
Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: Law-enforcing Jim West (Will Smith) and his pardner Artemus Gordon (Kevin Kline) attempt to rescue President Grant from the evil clutches of Kenneth Branagh. Along the way they encounter teasing love interest Salma Hayek and a plethora of rather dodgy-looking special effects.

A travesty of mis-timed humour, racism, and poor acting. A shoddy mess of movie, which could have been so much more.

Transfer: As good as the movie is bad. Check out the artefact-free night-time scenes in C3 and the explosive machinations of the mechanical spider in C26. The Dolby Digital 5.1 soundtrack is also first-rate, with tons of surround effects – especially impressive is the mechanical spider (C21).

Extras: This R2 version misses the commentary by director Barry Sonnenfeld on the R1 version, but there's still plenty on offer. You get cast biographies, the trailer, an HBO promo featurette, stills gallery, two music videos (including the making of Will Smith's), DVD-ROM content and four mini-documentaries themed around costumes, ladies and gadgets. **MG**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★★
Extras	★★★★★
Movie	★☆☆☆☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

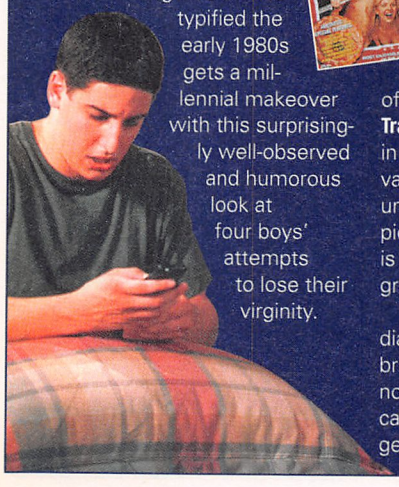


WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO & JULIET

Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: Nobody believed it would work, but director Baz Luhrmann has created one of the most memorable and inventive Hollywood films

AMERICAN PIE

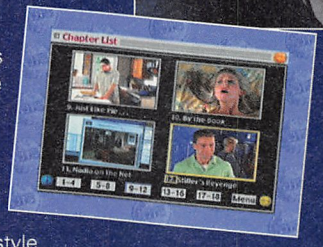
Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: The teen sex comedy genre that so typified the early 1980s gets a millennial makeover with this surprisingly well-observed and humorous look at four boys' attempts to lose their virginity.



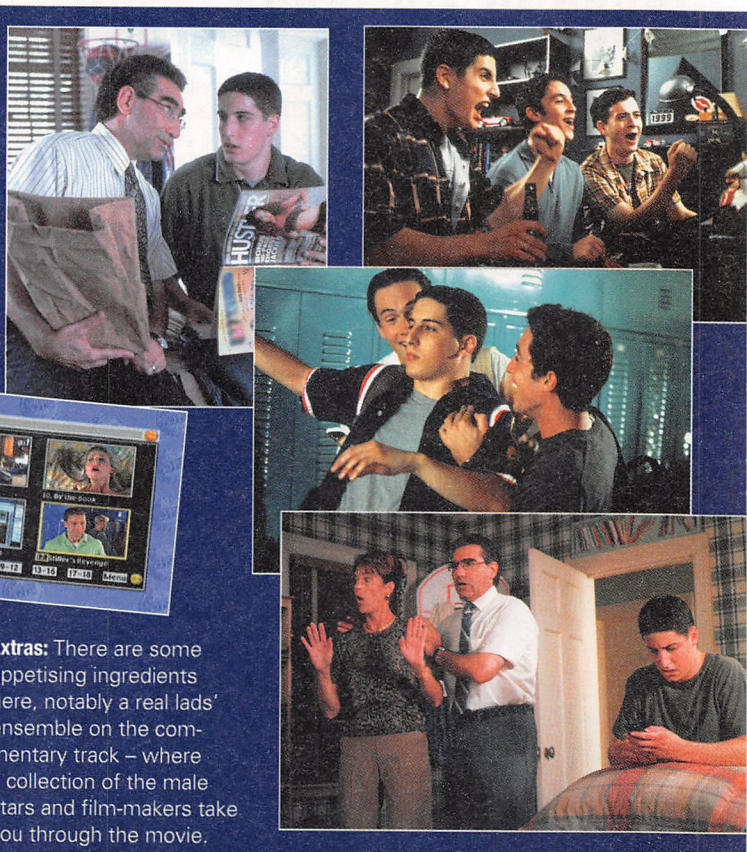
Despite the adolescent antics and show-stopping scenes to rival *There's Something About Mary* for torrid shock value, there's a tender side beneath this movie's crust and, for a change, the female characters get a decent slice of the proceedings.

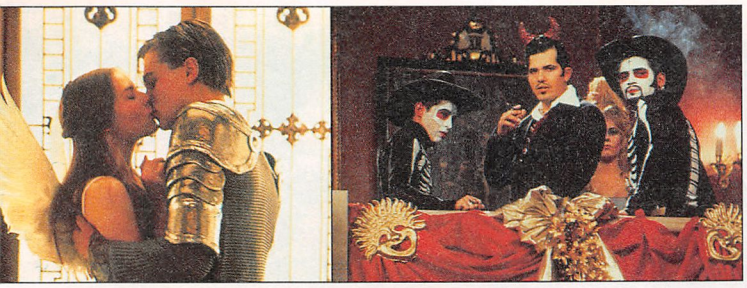
Transfer: Unambitious in terms of production values, the disc is a little under-done in terms of picture quality. The visual style is flat and the film is on the grainy side.

Being a comedy, the accent is on dialogue and the occasional music break on the soundtrack, so there's nothing special here on the technical front. Perfectly adequate for its genre, though.



Extras: There are some appetising ingredients here, notably a real lads' ensemble on the commentary track – where a collection of the male stars and film-makers take you through the movie.





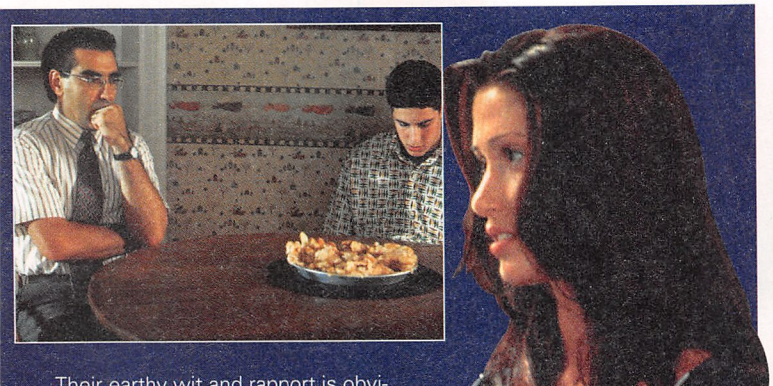
in recent years with this relocating of Shakespeare's classic tale into a near-futuristic setting.

Combining the play's original dialogue with gun play, high camp, and a spectacular visual style, this film will grip and amuse you from start to finish. The definitive screen version of Shakespeare's play.

Transfer: This is a film that tells the story as much through visual information as through the dialogue, and as such an immaculate transfer was needed. Thankfully, this is exactly what it received, with superb colour delineation and immense levels of detail all wrapped up in an anamorphic image. The soundtrack is equally well handled, with respectable steering and superb presentation for the numerous music tracks.

Extras: Criminally, the only piece of supplementary material offered by the animated menu is the original theatrical trailer. **AvB**

Picture	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★☆☆☆☆
Movie	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★☆



Their earthy wit and rapport is obvious, making this as much of a treat as the film itself, so high marks for the enjoyment value there (however, it's a pity the women are absent; a second track featuring them would have been enlightening).

Elsewhere, there's a short reel of out-takes, a 10min 'making of' featurette, trailer and DVD-ROM content including quotes and background notes. **IC**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★★★★☆
Movie	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★★☆

TINA – WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £15.99
Movie: Tina Turner will seem a good deal less obnoxious after watching her life story on celluloid. Based on the ageing rocker's autobiography, it's a brutal, no-holds-barred tale, with Angela Bassett displaying near-nuclear energy levels in the title role.

Laurence Fishburne gives an awesome performance as the monstrous Ike, who battered and degraded Tina until she escaped him, went solo and made a mint. Even for Tina-haters, it's an inspiring and ultimately uplifting story, punctuated by some great (and some bloody awful) numbers.

Transfer: *Tina...* spans three decades, with costumes and colours moving from early Sixties pastels to garish Eighties glitter & hot pinks. This may have troubled a lesser disc, but the diverse colours remain well contained and solid throughout.

The sonics are, of course, rather important. From the raw power of *River Deep, Mountain High* to her atrocious Eighties ditties, this soundtrack belts them all out with glee.

Extras: A pittance. Just chapter/language/scene selection. **DR**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★☆☆☆☆
Movie	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

BIG DADDY

Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: There are two ways to look at *Big Daddy*, depending on your mood. It is either a) A cute kiddie comedy about layabout no-goodnik Sonny (Adam Sandler), who adopts sweet five-year-old orphan Julian and thus transforms into a responsible adult, or b) A slick, sick film about a little kid whose mum just died of cancer being treated like a human pet by an irritating, juvenile prat.

You choose.

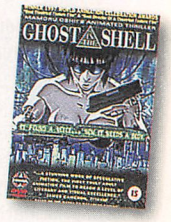
Transfer: At least there's no controversy with the transfer, which is superb. The image's quality is as fresh and unblemished as young Julian's cheeks.

There's not much action sound-wise, although both incidental noises and the poppy soundtrack are liberally dispersed around the 5.1 channels.

Extras: US and international theatrical trailers, *HBO First Look: The Making Of Big Daddy*, talent profiles and two music videos: *Sweet Child O' Mine* by Sheryl Crow and *When I Grow Up* by Garbage. **DR**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★★★☆☆
Movie	★★★☆☆
Overall	★★★★☆

GHOST IN THE SHELL



Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 16:9, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 3.0 (surround)
Price: £19.99
Movie: This stunning Japanese animation classic is in the long-standing tradition of Manga (comic books) converted into live action. *Ghost In The Shell* takes its futuristic vision further than most with rapid pacing, distinctive style and a mature, intricate plot.
Transfer: With its clean colours and sharp edges, animation is a natural for the format and this is certainly an exemplary specimen. One review disc showed the image in a 4:3 ratio (on a 16:9 TV) even though the picture is vertically stretched, as per anamorphic format. Forcing widescreen mode corrected this, but those with 4:3 TVs which lack a 16:9 mode may have problems.

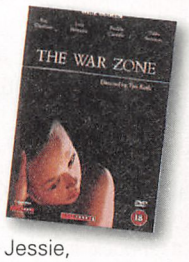
The film's soundtrack is thrilling. Unfortunately, it doesn't run to a 5.1 digital mix, but despite being merely three-channel Pro-Logic, it's a good effort.

Extras: A production report, 30min behind-the-scenes documentary,. plus DVD-ROM material. **IC**

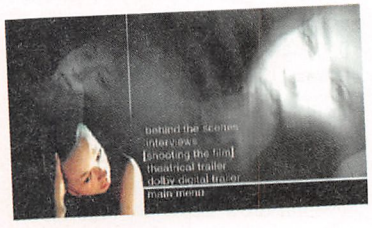
Picture	★★★★★
Sound	★★★☆☆
Extras	★★★☆☆
Movie	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★★☆

DVD SCREENINGS

THE WAR ZONE



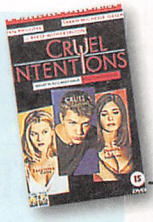
Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: This disturbing and uncomfortable tale of incest and family breakdown from the pen of Alexander Stuart was an inspired choice for Tim Roth's directorial debut. More character- than event-driven, the movie has a laconic feel at times, reflecting the boredom felt by teenage Londoner Tom in his family's new Devon home.



Ray Winstone plays the father with a sick interest in his daughter Jessie, played superbly by debutant Lara Belmont. Roth, who also extracts a top-notch performance from Freddie Cunlife as Tom, handles the camera with aplomb. A powerful and moving film that was unjustly underrated by the critics and overlooked by the bestowers of awards.
Transfer: The muted tones of the original print are faultlessly captured in this anamorphic transfer. The bleak and unappealing dreariness of the Devon winter are beautifully conveyed. The soundtrack, while hardly a cacophony of effects, is clean and crisp.
Extras: Audio description for the visually impaired is an unusual but welcome feature. The series of interviews are the most poorly shot and edited footage ever to make it out of a DV camcorder, and are best ignored. **AJ**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★☆☆
Extras	★☆☆☆☆
Movie	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★★☆

CRUEL INTENTIONS



Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: Roger Kumble's reworking of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* isn't everyone's cup of tea. However, set in the hypocritical preppie world of Manhattan's Upper East Side, the film deals with sex, blackmail and rotten hearts with refreshing and salacious candour.

Although not a patch on 1988's *Dangerous Liaisons*, Ryan Philippe is excellent as debauched seducer Sebastian, attempting to deflower super-virtuous Annette (Reese Witherspoon). The undoubted highlight is Sarah Michelle (*Buffy...*) Gellar purring 'You can stick it anywhere you want,' to Sebastian. Oh, if you insist Buff...
Transfer: Superb. Framed in its original 1.85:1 aspect ratio, the image is as elegant and attractive as the characters it portrays. The sumptuous palette of colours in Sebastian's stunning apartment positively glow on this disc.

The 5.1 soundtrack concerns itself primarily with all the dirty, scheming talk and a funky soundtrack, including the Verve's *Bittersweet Symphony*. Competent but unspectacular.
Extras: Rather better than the film deserves: US theatrical trailer, behind-the-scenes featurette, commentaries from the director/producer, music videos, deleted scenes, plus facts & filmographies. **DR**

Picture	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★★★★☆
Movie	★★★☆☆
Overall	★★★★☆

GO

Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: A hugely underrated film that uses a host of interesting characters to tell disparate stories about the same ill-fated weekend. *Go* is thrilling, funny, sexy, weird and even quite frightening. It grabs

HILARY AND JACKIE

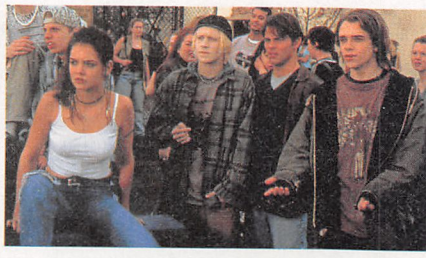
Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 16:9, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: The 'real-life' story of acclaimed cellist Jacqueline du Pre and her elder sister Hilary. Jackie (Emily Watson) becomes a star while Hilary (Rachel Griffiths) turns housewife.

When Jackie's world falls apart she seeks solace in the arms of Hilary and the bed of Hilary's husband. Excellent acting and accomplished directing make this an engrossing and moving story.

Transfer: First-rate. A bright palette with no aberrations to spoil the enjoyment. Audio is excellent, but don't expect too much surround sophistication.
Extras: Theatrical trailer, DD trailer and a deleted scene. Also, the option to watch the movie with no audio except the incidental music. **AJ**

Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★★☆☆☆
Movie	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★★☆

DISTURBING BEHAVIOR



Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: The aptly named David (*X-Files*) Nutter graduates to cinema with this moody tale of teenagers and mind-control. Enrolled into a dodgy scientific programme, the youngsters are forced to suppress their rebellious instincts. Naturally, the plan backfires and most of them go insane. The movie has a great style and strong cast but doesn't quite reach its full potential.
Transfer: The film has a cool, dark look that transfers well to the format. Detail is pin-sharp. Apart from slightly muffled dialogue, the soundtrack is above average.
Extras: A music video and trailer, plus biog text. Woefully inadequate compared to the R1 disc, which boasted key deleted scenes and a superb director's commentary. **IC**

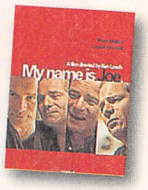
Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★☆☆
Extras	★★☆☆☆
Movie	★★★☆☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

you and somehow drags you back to your teens again with a rich mix of sex, drugs and comedy.
Transfer: For such a visually and acoustically exciting movie, *Go* demands a spectacular transfer, and once again Columbia Tristar has delivered. Difficult sequences such as the rave in the first story retain remarkable image clarity, and do a superb job of creating a soundstage which grounds you in the onscreen action. This is a disc you'll be showing off to your friends for some time to come.

Extras: A host of supplementals, comprising 14 deleted scenes, three music videos, behind-the-scenes footage, an excellent director's commentary, theatrical trailer and filmographies. **SLG**

Picture	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★★
Extras	★★★★☆
Movie	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★

MY NAME IS JOE



Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 16:9, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: Ken Loach is renowned for powerful, gritty dramas, and *My Name Is Joe* is no exception. Set on Glasgow's blighted estates, Loach tackles poverty and love with equal skill. Peter Mullan is exceptional as Joe, a recovering alcoholic managing a football team of junkies and losers.His lonely life is turned around by good-hearted health visitor Sarah (Louise Goodall), but a run-in with the local smack king threatens to wreck Joe's budding romance. Funny, poignant, occasionally heart-rending, this is British cinema at its best.
Transfer: Apart from occasional pixellation on shadowy areas, it's picture-perfect. *My Name Is Joe* is all about dialogue, so don't expect any system-busting effects.
Extras: Interviews with Loach et al, a theatrical trailer and separate Dolby Digital trailer. **DR**

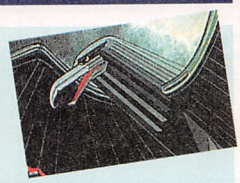
Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★☆☆
Extras	★★★☆☆
Movie	★★★★☆
Overall	★★★★☆

PINK FLOYD: THE WALL

Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: Whether you'll enjoy this movie depends on one simple thing: do you like Pink Floyd? If not, steer clear, but if so, Alan Parker's visual accompaniment to Floyd's album will delight.

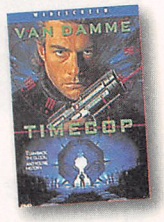
The ultra-thin story concerns Pink (Bob Geldof), who journeys from war-ravaged childhood to a surreal Fascist state via rock stardom. Gerald Scarfe's nightmarish, fantastical animations steal the show, though.
Transfer: Sensational. This super-duper DVD edition features high-definition film transfer from the original widescreen print, plus a digitally remastered 5.1 soundtrack. What this means in the real world is a glorious image, with only the faintest overlay of grain. Scarfe's macabre images really deserve a top-notch transfer, and boy do they get it.

The sonics are equally wondrous. Floyd fans will be suffused with post-orgasmic bliss after running this through their surround systems.
Extras: The plaudits continue with the feast of supplemental material. Here goes: superb animated & scored menus, previously unreleased footage, *The Other Side Of The Wall* – 25min 'making of' documentary, *Retrospective* – 45min documentary featuring interviews with Roger Waters, Scarfe, Parker and more, theatrical trailer, production stills, secret buttons, sound system setup guide and postcard inserts of Scarfe's work. Wow! **DR**



Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★★
Extras	★★★★★
Movie	★★★☆☆
Overall	★★★★★

TIMECOP



Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 2.35:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: An ambitious plot for Jean-Claude Van Damme, this. In 2004 the US Government has mastered time travel. Various baddies zip back in time to tweak history and make a fortune. Nice idea, shame about the scripting. Despite high-octane action set-pieces, *Timecop* features far too much risible dialogue. All in all, fun but foolish.
Transfer: *Timecop* provides a stern test of a disc's AV credentials, with numerous night scenes, numberless explosions and Mark Isham's pounding soundtrack. Both sound and vision are highly credible, despite a hint of shimmer on blocks of dark colour.
Extras: Production notes, cast/crew biogs and the theatrical trailer. **DR**

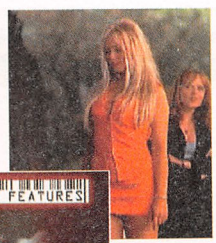
Picture	★★★★☆
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★★☆☆☆
Movie	★★☆☆☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

VIRTUAL SEXUALITY

Region: 2 (PAL)
Presentation: Widescreen 1.85:1, anamorphic, Dolby Digital 5.1
Price: £19.99
Movie: Pretty 17-year-old Justine (Laura Fraser) can't find the right boy until an accident at a virtual reality exhibition creates a duplicate of herself, similar in every way but gender. When they unknowingly hit it off, little do they realise that they are really two sides of the same person.

A kind of *Jekyll And Hyde* meets *Tron*, this is a lightweight teen sex caper overloaded by a script so 'issues'-heavy that it's painfully obvious it was written by an agony uncle (in this case Nick Fisher).
Transfer: Perhaps the brightest, most colourful British film in a long time, this has the glossy look of a generous-budget Hollywood movie (the sun even comes out sometimes!).

The DVD retains this quality admirably with a top-notch transfer that bursts with clarity and vivid hues. Audio is a relatively well-used 5.1 mix that matches the image's technical credentials.
Extras: Not too sexy – a trailer, a short featurette and cast video diary. Not nearly as interactive or supportive as the subject matter demands. Back to *The Matrix* for us. **IC**



Picture	★★★★★
Sound	★★★★☆
Extras	★★☆☆☆
Movie	★★★☆☆
Overall	★★★☆☆

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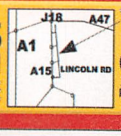

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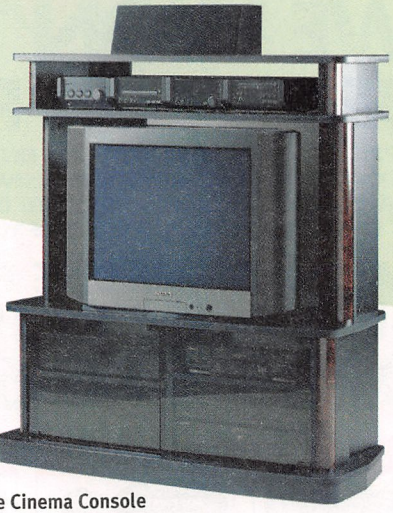

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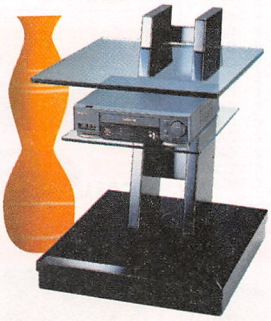

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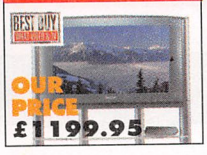

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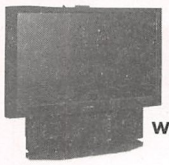

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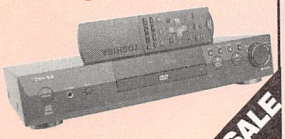
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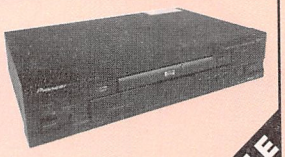
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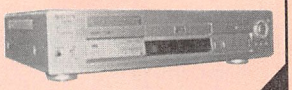
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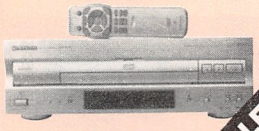
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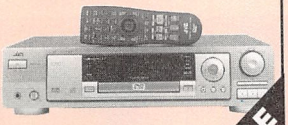
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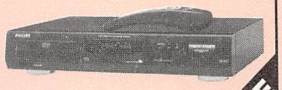
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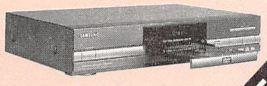
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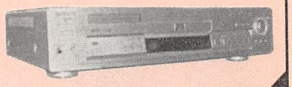
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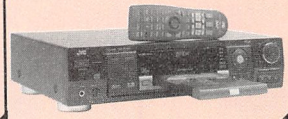
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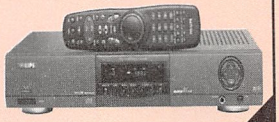
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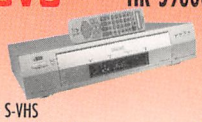

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HR-S7500EK
HR-S7600EK
HR-S8600EK
HR-S9600EK
HR-DVS1EK

TELEVISION
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C-J14EK
C-JT21EK
AV-21T54EK
AV-25T54EK
AV-25B03EK
AV-29B03EK
AV-255X4EK
AV-295X4EK

VIDEO
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HR-J465EK
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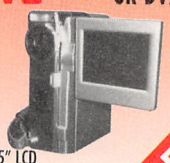

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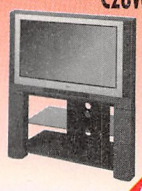

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C32W40DTN
C28WF523N
C32WF523N
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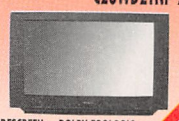

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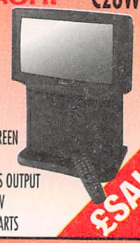

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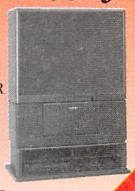

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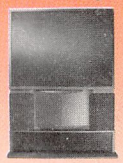

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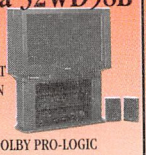

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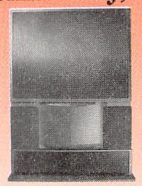

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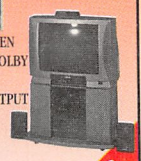

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- 5 SPEAKER DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- 55W RMS OUTPUT
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- INVAR MASK
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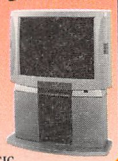

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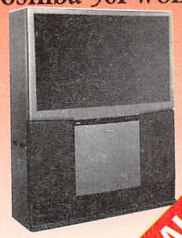

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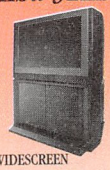

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32PW6332	32PW9545	VR860	21PT1664
28PW9515	28PW9535	VR900	25PT4103
32PW9515	32PW9535	VR1000	21PT4475
36PW9515	45PP9501	VR969	25PT4475
28PW9615	55PP9501	DVR1000	28PT4475
32PW9615	42PW9982		21PT5324
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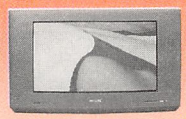

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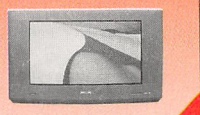

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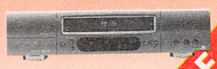

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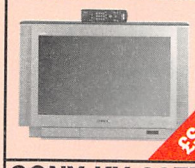

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- Fastext
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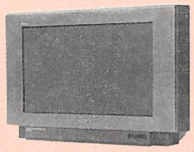
- Also Available KV32DS60 DV28FX60



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32" Widescreen

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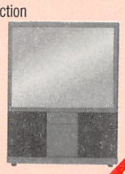
- Picture in Picture
- 100Hz



- **Also KP-46S4**

£SALE

SONY KV32WF1 KV28WF1

- KV32WF1 32"
- KV28WF1 28"
- Widescreen • Nicam

£SALE

SONY SLV-SF99UX

- As SLV-SF90UX
- Plus
- Smart Set Box Control
- Audio Dub

£SALE

SONY STR-DA50
- ES Amplifier
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- 6 Channel input
- Touch Panel

£SALE

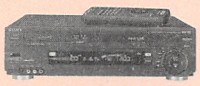
SONY KV-32DS60
32" Widescreen

SONY KV-28DS60
28" Widescreen

- On Digital Tuner
- Pure Flat
- 100Hz with Digital Comb Filter
- Dolby Prologic
- 50w RMS Output

£SALE

TV		WIDESCREEN		VIDEO		CAMCORDERS			AV AMPLIFIERS	DVD PLAYERS
KV-21X5	KP-4154	KV-24WX1	KV-28FX60	SLV-SE20	SLV-E930	CCD-TR425	CCD-TR913	DCR-PC2	STR-DE135	TA-N9000ES
KV-25X5	KP-4654	KV-28WF1	KV-32FX60	SLV-SE30	SLV-E1000	CCD-TR515	CCD-TRV27	DCR-PC3	STR-DE235	DVP-S7700
KV-29X5	KP-5354	KV-32WF1	KV-28FD1	SLV-SE45	SLV-T2000	CCD-TR713	CCD-TRV36	DCR-TRV8	STR-DE435	DVP-S725
KV-29FX20	KV-14V5	KV-28WS2	KV-32FD1	SLV-SE70			CCD-TRV46	DCR-TRV10	STR-DB830	DVP-S525
KV-29FX60	KV-14V6	KV-32WS2	KL-37W2	SLV-SE80			CCD-TRV66	DCR-TRV890	STR-DB930	DVP-S325
	KV-21V6	KV-28FX20	KL-50W2	SLV-E850			DCR-TR7000	DCR-TRV900	STR-DA50ES	PVB-30
		KV-32FX20	KV-28DS60	SLV-F900			DCR-TRV110	DCR-VX1000	TA-E9000ES	
			KV-32DS60	SLV-F990			DCR-TRV310	DCR-VX9000		
							DCR-TRV510			

SONY SLV-T2000


- Combination Long Play VHS/Hi8 Double Deck
- 4-Head Nicam Hi-Fi Stereo
- Front AV
- VideoPlus/PDC

£SALE

SONY STR-DB930

- AV Reciever
- DTS
- AC3
- 5x100 watts per channel
- RDS

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SONY KV29FX11 FX29/FX20

- 29" FD Trinitron

£SALE

SONY KV-32DS20
32" Widescreen

SONY KV-28DS20
28" Widescreen
- On Digital Tuner
- Pure Flat
- Dolby Prologic

£SALE

SONY KV-32DX20
32" Widescreen

SONY KV-28DX20
28" Widescreen

- On Digital Tuner
- Pure Flat
- Nicam

£SALE

SONY DCR-PC3 £1045
DCR-PC2 £889

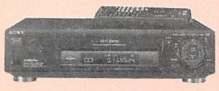
- DV
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Nightshot 0 Lux
- 40x Digital Zoom
- Memory Stick (DCR-PC3 only)

£SALE

SONY KP-41S4

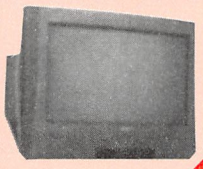
- 41"
- Rear Projection
- Nicam Stereo
- Digital Combfilter

£1199

SONY SLV-E930


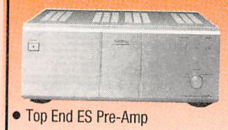
- 4-Head Nicam Video Recorder
- NTSC Playback • VideoPlus and PDC
- Front AV • Audio Dub/Insert Edit
- Jog/Shuttle
- W/Screen Recording

£SALE

SONY KV24WX1


- 24" Widescreen
- Nicam (pic not exact)

£SALE

SONY TA-N9000ES


- Top End ES Pre-Amp
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- Touch Panel LCD Remote

£SALE

SONY TA-E9000ES

- Top End ES Power Amp
- 5x 130w

£SALE

SONY STR-DB830

- Receiver
- Dolby Digital
- DTS
- 4x 100w

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SONY KL50W2 KL37W2

- 50"LCD Rear Projector

£LOWEST PRICE IN THE UK

SONY SLV-E70

- 4-Head Nicam Video Recorder
- NTSC Playback
- VideoPlus and PDC
- Widescreen Recording

£SALE

SONY KV28WS2 KV32WS2

- KV 28WS2 28"
- KV 32WS2 32"
- Widescreen
- Dolby Prologic

£SALE

SONY KP-41DS1

- 41" Rear Projector
- On Digital Decoder
- Nicam
- NTSC Playback Via Scart

£SALE

SONY KV-21X5 21"
KV-25X5 25"
KV-29X5 29"

- Nicam
- 2x Scart
- Front AV
- NTSC Playback Via Scart

£SALE

SONY SLV-SE80UX

- 4 Head • Nicam • Video Plus
- Front AV • Video Plus/PDC
- NTSC Playback

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- 47" Rear
- 100Hz
- Dolby Prologic
- AV Picture in Picture

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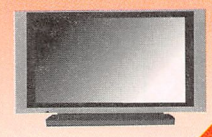
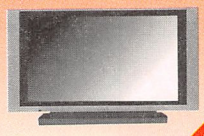
PANASONIC TC-42PD1

- 42" Plasma Screen
- Multi System Compatible

£SALE

PANASONIC TC-37PD1

- 37" Plasma Screen
- Multi System Compatible

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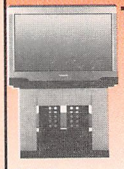
Panasonic TX32PF10 32"

100Hz, Pure Flat

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Panasonic NVHS950

- S-VHS • 4 HEAD
- JOG SHUTTLE • NICAM
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PDC

EDIT CONTROLLER

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Panasonic TX-32PK1
- 32" PURE FLAT
- NICAM STEREO

Also Available TX28PK1

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PANASONIC TX-32DT2

- 32" Widescreen
- On-Digital decoder
- Nicam
- Pure Flat Screen

£SALE

PANASONIC NV-HD685B

- NTSC Playback
- 4 Head Nicam
- Video Plus with PDC
- Tape Library
- Jog/Shuttle

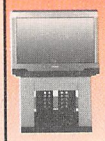
£SALE

PANASONIC NV-HS850

- S-VHS
- Jog/Shuttle
- Video Plus/PDC
- NTSC Playback

£SALE

Panasonic TX32PK2
also TX 28PK2


- 32" Pure Flat
- Dolby Pro Logic

£SALE

Panasonic TX-28MK1

Also Available: TX25MK1 TX21MK1

£SALE

Panasonic TX-W36D3DP

- 36" WIDESCREEN
- 100Hz
- DOLBY PRO-LOGIC
- PICTURE IN PICTURE

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Panasonic

WIDESCREEN TV			VIDEO		DVD		
TXW28R4	TXW36D30PC	TX32DT2	NVSD240B	NVHD685B5	DVDA160	NVRX14B	NVM55B
TXW28R4DP	TX28PK1	TX32PF10	NVSD440B	NVHS900B	DVDA360	NVRX24B	NVDA1B
TXW32R4	TX28PK2	TX36PF10	NVHD640B	NVHS850B5	DVDL50	NVRX64B	NVDS33B
TXW32R4DPC	TX28DT2	TC37PD1	NVHD645B5	NVHS950B	CAMCORDERS	NVVX24B	NVDS99B
	TX28PK10	TC42PD1	NVHD675BS	NVDV10000B	NVRX11B	NVVX44B	NVDX110B
	TX32PK1	TX47PT1			NVM50	NVVX54B	
	TX32PK2						

PANASONIC NV-DS99

- DVC
- LCD Screen
- Progressive Photoshot
- 120x Digital Zoom
- Optical Image Stabilizer
- 0.5 LUX

£SALE

PANASONIC NV-DS11

- DVC
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 400x Digital Zoom
- Image Stabilizer
- 0.5 LUX

£SALE

PANASONIC NV-DS8

- DVC
- 400x Digital Zoom
- Image Stabilizer
- 0.5 LUX

£SALE

Panasonic TXW28R4 28" TXW32R4 32"

Widescreen Nicam

£SALE

Panasonic NVHS850B

- SVHS
- NICAM
- JOG SHUTTLE
- VIDEO PLUS PDC
- NTSC PLAYBACK VIA SCART

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Panasonic NVDS33

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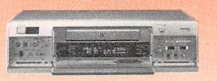
- DV & DVC
- Firewire In/Out

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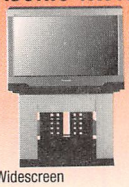
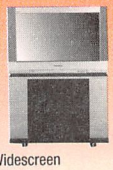
PANASONIC TX36PF10

- 36" Widescreen
- Pure Flat
- Dolby Prologic

£SALE

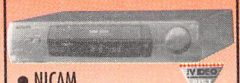
PANASONIC TX28DT2

- 28" Widescreen
- Pure Flat Screen
- On Digital Decoder
- Nicam

£SALE

Panasonic TXW32D2DPC

- PRO LOGIC
- 100Hz, Nicam

TO CLEAR

Panasonic NVHD640

- NICAM
- 4 HEAD
- LONG PLAY
- VIDEOPLUS WITH PDC
- ON-SCREEN DISPLAY

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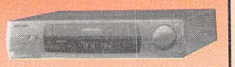
Panasonic NVHD645

- NICAM
- 4 HEAD
- LONG PLAY
- VIDEO PLUS WITH PDC
- ON-SCREEN DISPLAY

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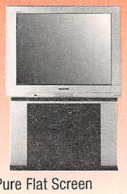
PANASONIC TX33AK10

- 33" Pure Flat Screen
- 100Hz
- Dolby Prologic

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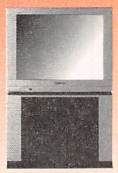
PANASONIC TX29AK1

- 29" Pure Flat Screen
- Nicam

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PANASONIC NVHD675B

- 4 Head Nicam
- Video Plus with PDC
- Video Library
- NTSC Playback

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Panasonic TXW28R4DP 28" TXW32R4DP 32"

Widescreen Nicam

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Panasonic NVHS900B

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- JOG/SHUTTLE
- VIDEO PLUS
- NTSC PLAYBACK

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Panasonic NV-DS11

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- 42" Plasma Screen
- Widescreen

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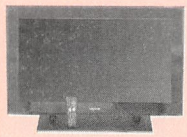

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- AC3 Amp

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- Ex Display

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£349

YAMAHA DSP-A-1

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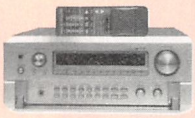
DENON AVC-A1D



- AC3
- DTS

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KEF MODEL 200C

- Centre Speaker

Also Available 100C, 90C, 95C, 80C

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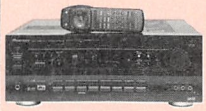
PIONEER VSX808



- AC3/DTS
- 5X 60W
- RDS Receiver

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SAMSUNG CI593CN

- 25" Nicam

RRP £???

SAVE £???

£SALE

PIONEER VSX708

- AC3/DTS
- RDS Receiver

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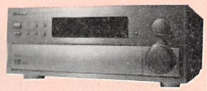
PIONEER VSAE07



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- THX

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CC6	POA
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TLX-181	POA
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TLX-103	POA

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CODA 9.2	POA
CODA 10	POA

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TDM 45B	POA
TDM 34DS	POA

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DIPOLE SURROUNDS

MODEL 65DS	POA

CENTRE SPEAKERS

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MODEL 100C	POA
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SUBWOOFERS

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30B	POA

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KRF-V7010	POA
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PLANUS 4672Z	£1249
PLANUS 4670Z	£1349
PLANUS 4681Z	£1649

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SR14	POA
AV9000	POA
MM9000	POA
MA700	POA
MA500	POA
RC5000	POA
RC2000	POA
RC1200	POA
IR92	POA

(ONLY AVAILABLE IN STORE)

MONITOR AUDIO

MONITOR ONE	POA
MONITOR TWO	POA
MONITOR THREE	POA
MONITOR FOUR	POA
700 PMC	POA
702 PMC	POA
703 PMC	POA
705 PMC	POA
STUDIO 2 SE	POA
STUDIO 12	POA
STUDIO 20	POA
STUDIO 50	POA
STUDIO 60	POA
CC300	POA
CC900	POA
CC70	POA

MISSION

SPEAKERS

70	POA
700	POA
701	POA
702	POA
703	POA
704	POA
70c1	POA
70c2	POA

SUBWOOFERS

771E	POA
772	POA
773E	POA
774	POA
775	POA
77C1	POA
77DS	POA

CENTRE SPEAKERS

750F	POA
751F	POA
752F	POA
753F	POA
75C	POA

MITSUBISHI

TV

CT-21AV1B	POA
CT-21AV1BD	POA
C2557	POA
C25D7B	POA
C28S7B	POA
C28D7B	POA
CT33-B3STX	POA

WIDESCREEN

CT-28BW2B	POA
CT-28BWBD	POA
CT-32CW1BD	POA

TV/VIDEO COMBI

CT-14MV1B	POA

VIDEO

HS-721B	POA
HS-550B	POA
HS-561B	POA
HS-740B	POA
HS-750B	POA
HS-761B	POA
HSM1000	POA

OPTIMUM

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE

PANASONIC

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE

PHILIPS

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE

PIONEER

VSA-303	POA
VSA-E03	POA
VSA-E06	POA
VSA-805S	POA
VSX-407RDS	POA
VSX-607RDS	POA
VSX-708RDS	POA
VSX-804RDS	POA
VSX-808RDS	POA
VSX-908RDS	POA

POLK

REFERENCE HOME THEATRE

RT5000 System	POA
RT3000P	POA
FX1000	POA
CS1000P	POA

CENTRE SPEAKERS

CS1000P	POA
CS400	POA
CS300	POA
CS245	POA
CS175	POA

SUBWOOFERS

PSW140	POA
PSW150	POA

SURROUND SPEAKERS

FX1000	POA
FX500	POA
RTFX	POA

SPEAKERS

RTE 2000P	POA
RTE1000P	POA
RTE800	POA
RTE600	POA
RTE55	POA
RTE35	POA
RT3000P	POA
RT2000P	POA
RT1000P	POA
RT800	POA
RT600	POA
RT400	POA
RT55	POA
RT35	POA
RT25	POA
RT15	POA
M3II	POA
M1	POA

IN WALL SPEAKERS

AB855	POA
AB755	POA
AB710	POA
AB555	POA
AB510	POA

ROTEL

RB 985	POA
RMB-1095	POA
RSP-985	POA
RSP-966	POA
RSX-965RDS	POA

SONY

AV AMPS

SDP-E300	
STR-DE405	
TA-VE 750	
TA-VE800G	
TA-VA8ES	
SDP-EP9ES	

CAMCORDERS

CCD-TR 760E	
CCD-TR 820E	
CCD-TR 1100E	
CCD-TR 3100E	
CCD-TR 3300E	
CCD-TR 555E	
CCD-TRV 10E	
CCD-TRV 24E	
CCD-TRV 64E	
CCD-TRV 94E	
CCD-SC55E	
DCR-PC7	

TV

KV-21X1	POA
KV-25F1	POA
KV-25K1	POA
KV-25X1	POA
KV-29F1	POA
KV-29K1	POA
KV-29X1	POA
KP-4153	POA

WIDESCREEN

KV-24WS2	POA
KV-24WX1	POA
KV-28WS2	POA
KV-28WX1	POA
KV-32WS4	POA
KV-32WX2	

KEF THX SPEAKER PACKAGE

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DENON AVR1800

- AC3/DTS
- 5x 60w
- RDS Receiver

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ROTEL RB 985 5 Channel THX Power Amp

- 5x 100w RMS
- Ex-display

WAS £749

SAVE £250

£499

JVC HR-S6600

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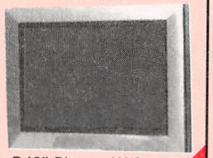
PHILIPS PLASMA SCREEN 42PW9982C



- D42" Plasma W/S
- VGA Input
- Pro-Logic sound

£8999

DENON AVR 2800

- AC3/DTS
- 5x 85w
- RDS Receiver

£CALL

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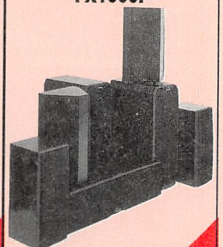

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- THX
- 5X 130W
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- THX Power amp

(Pic not exact)

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- AE-107C Centre Speaker
- AE-100 Satellite Speakers

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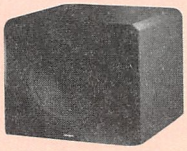
VELODYNE VA68XII

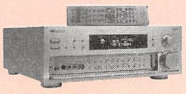


- Subwoofer
- 70w RMS
- Ex display

WAS £400

HALF PRICE £200

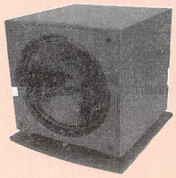
PIONEER VSX 908 RDS



- 5x 110w
- THX ULTRA
- Receiver
- AC3/DTS

£SALE

KEF MODEL 30B



Also Available 20B

RRP £500

£SALE

PROJECTOR	
KL-37W1	POA
KL-50W1	POA
VIDEO	
SLV-E720	POA
SLV-E820	POA
SLV-E920	POA
SLV-T2000	POA
DHR-1000UX	POA
SL-AV100	POA
EVC-400	POA
EVC-2000	POA
EVC-9000	POA

TANNOY

MERCURY M1	POA
MERCURY M2.5	POA
MERCURY M3	POA
MERCURY MR	POA
MERCURY MC	POA
MERCURY MM	POA
MERCURY MSUB10	POA
REVOLUTION R1	POA
REVOLUTION R2	POA
REVOLUTION R3	POA
SATURN S6	POA
SATURN S8	POA
SATURN S10	POA
SATURN S6C	POA
SATURN S8C	POA
D-300	POA
D-500	POA
D-700	POA
S-900	POA
D-750	POA
STIRLING	POA
TURNBERRY HE	POA
EDINBURGH HE	POA
GRFM HE	POA
CANTERBURY HE	POA
WESTMINSTER ROYAL	POA
KINGDOM 15	POA
KINGDOM	POA

TEAC

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE	

TECHNICS

SA-AX530	POA
SA-AX730	POA
SA-AX930	POA
SA-AX6	POA
SA-AX7	POA

THOMSON

WIDESCREEN	
60DXC-68U	POA
70DXC-68U	POA
81DXC-69DLU	POA
PROJECTOR	
RP 52UK	POA
TV	
55 MK-48U	POA
25 DT-63H	POA
63 MK-69DU	POA
72 MK-89DU	POA
VIDEO	
VPH2557	POA
VPH6557	POA
VPH6697	POA

TOSHIBA

TELEVISION	
2173DB	POA
2573DB	POA
2873DB	POA
2550TB	POA
2987DB	POA
3387DB	POA
3787DB	POA
WIDESCREEN TV	
28MW7DB	POA
28W8DB	POA
28W93DB	POA
28WD98B	POA
32MW7DB	POA
32W8DB	POA
32WD98DB	POA
32ZD98DB	POA
PROJECTOR TV	
40PW8DB	POA
43PJ93B	POA
48PJ6DB	POA
50PJ98B	POA
56PW8DB	POA
61PJ98B	POA
DVD PLAYERS	
SD2109	POA
SD3109	POA
SD9000	POA
VIDEO RECORDERS	
V226B	POA
V229B	POA
V429B	POA
V709B	POA
V729B	POA
V859B	POA

YAMAHA

DSP-A492	POA
DSP-A592	POA
RX-V392	POA
RX-V592	POA
DSP-E492	POA
YST-SW40	POA
YST-SW80	POA
YST-SW150	POA
YST-SW300	POA

YAMAHA YSTW300

- Active subwoofer
- 12" Driver
- 185W RMS output

RRP £350

KEF Q35

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RRP £350

JBL L-CENTRE

- Centre Speaker
- 2 Way
- 150w RMS

RRP £500

£249

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YAMAHA DSP-A1

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 7 CHANNEL HIGH POWER OUTPUT
- 5 x 110w + 2 x 35w

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YAMAHA DSP-A2

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 7 CHANNEL HIGH POWER OUTPUT
- 5 x 100w + 2 x 25w

£SALE

YAMAHA RXV-795aRDS

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 5 x 85w
- RECEIVER WITH RDS

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YAMAHA RXV595aRDS

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 5 x 70w
- RECEIVER WITH RDS

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YAMAHA DSPA595a

- DOLBY DIGITAL
- DTS
- 5 x 70w

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YAMAHA DVD-S795

- DOLBY DIGITAL DECODER
- 96KHz, 24 BIT DAC
- OPTICAL AND COAXIAL OUTPUTS

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YAMAHA RX-V395RDS

- DOLBY PROLOGIC
- 5 x 60w
- RECEIVER WITH RDS

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YAMAHA YST-SW300

- SUBWOOFER
- 18-170Hz (-10dB)
- 185w
- AUTO STANDBY

£SALE

YAMAHA YST-SW160

- SUBWOOFER
- 20-160Hz (-10dB)
- 150w
- AUTO STANDBY

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YAMAHA YST-SW90

- SUBWOOFER
- 23-170Hz (-10dB)
- 100w
- AUTO STANDBY

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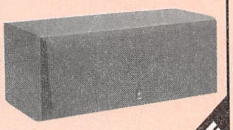
YAMAHA NS-C150 NS-C105 NS-C103 NS-C300



- CENTRE SPEAKER

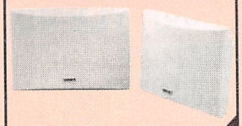
£SALE

YAMAHA YST-SW45

- SUBWOOFER
- 30-200Hz (-10dB)
- 70w
- AUTO STANDBY

£SALE

YAMAHA NS-E105 NS-E103



- EFFECT SPEAKERS

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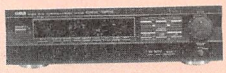
YAMAHA DSP-E492



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- DOLBY PROLOGIC

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BOSE AM10

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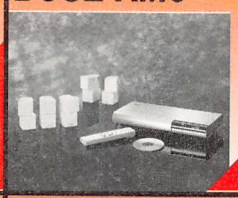
BOSE AM6



£549

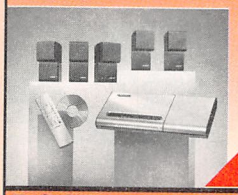
BOSE LIFESTYLE 50

£4500

BOSE AM15

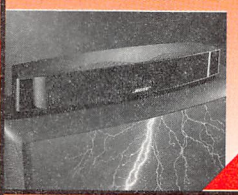
£1100

BOSE LIFESTYLE 12



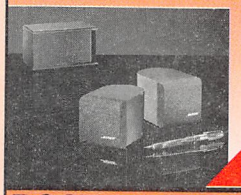
£1250

BOSE VCS 10



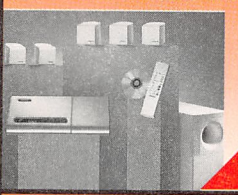
£190

BOSE AM 3



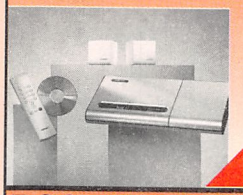
£330

BOSE LIFESTYLE 8



£1100

BOSE LIFESTYLE 3

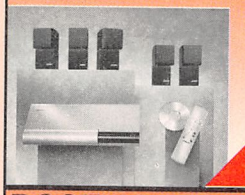


£900

BOSE LIFESTYLE 5

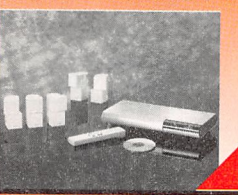
£1350

BOSE LIFESTYLE 25



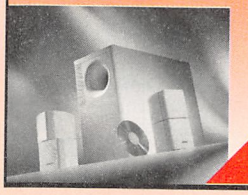
£2200

BOSE LIFESTYLE 30



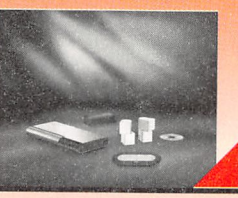
£2100

BOSE AM 5



£450

BOSE LIFESTYLE 40



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Dolby Digital

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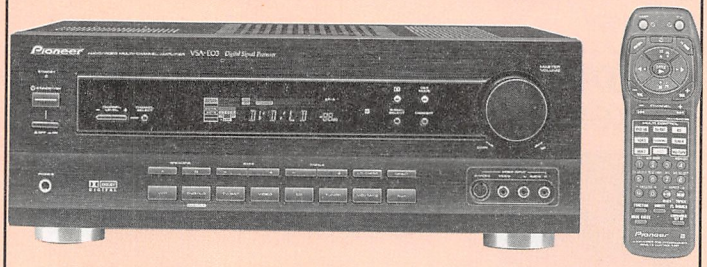

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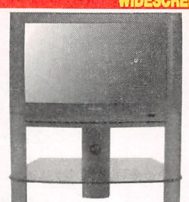

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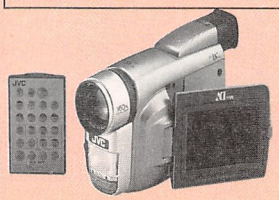

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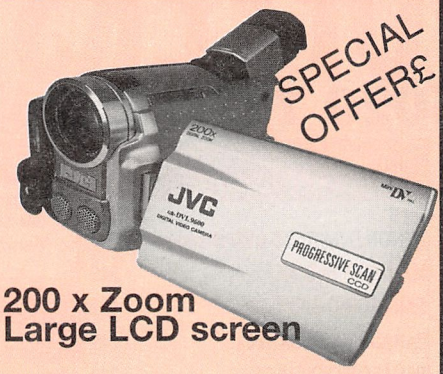

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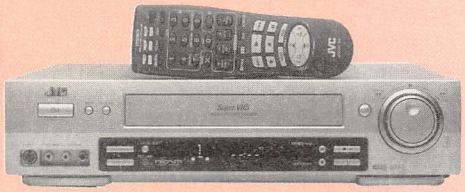

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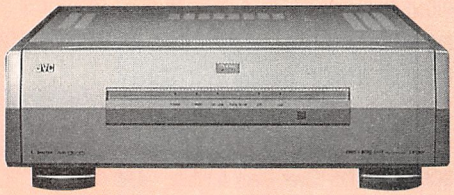

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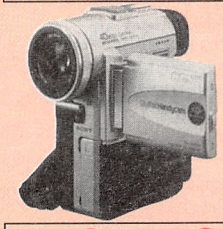

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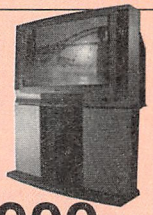

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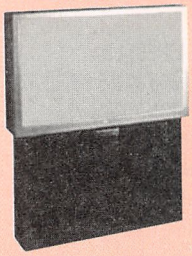

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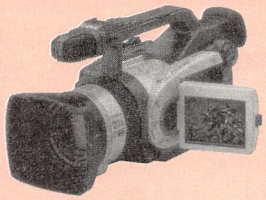

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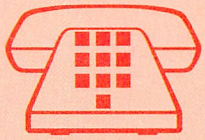

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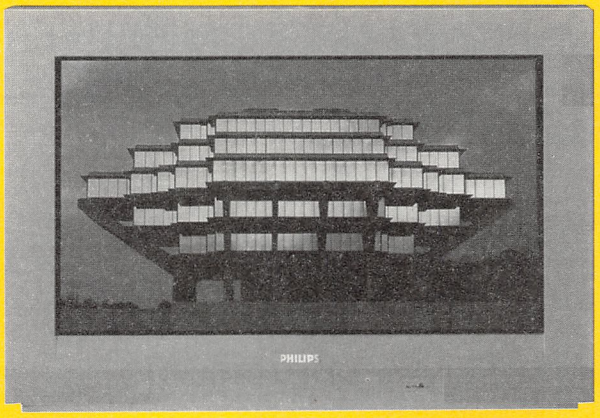

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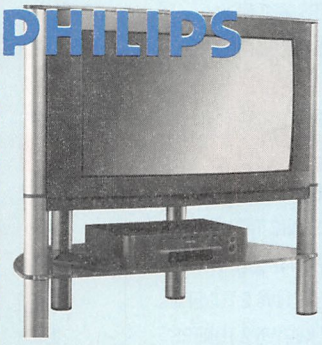

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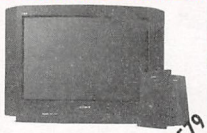

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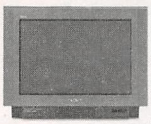

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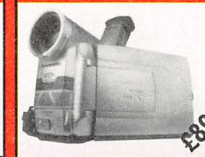

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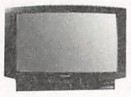

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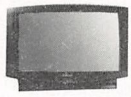

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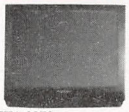

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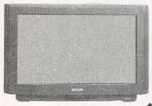

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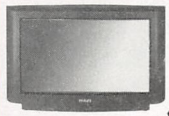

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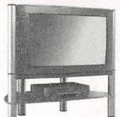

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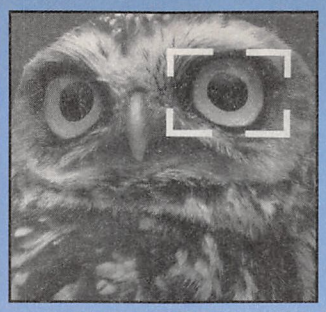

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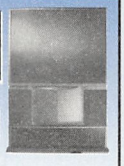

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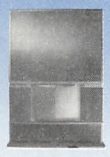

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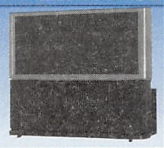

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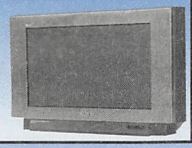

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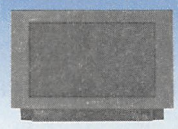

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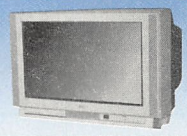

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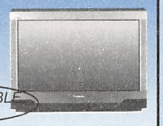

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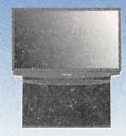

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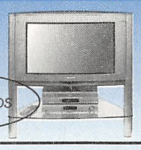

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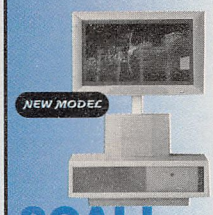

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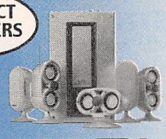

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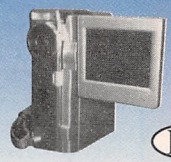

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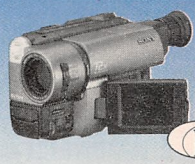

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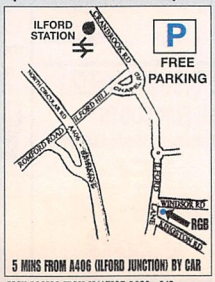

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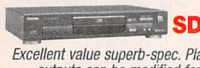

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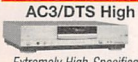

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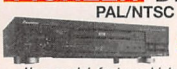

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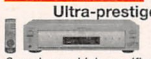
SONY DVPS7700
Ultra-prestige/ES DVD Player



SDB £549.00

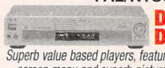
*Superb very high specification AC3/DTS player, upgraded model to highly renowned DVPS715 - Champagne Gold Only. **Can be fully modified for regs 1-6***

SONY DVPS725
PAL/NTSC Player

SDB £449.00

Superb specification AC3/DTs player, features include, built-in decoder, magic-pad on screen menu, 96khz/24 bit audio – CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION. ALSO AVAILABLE IN SILVER REG/2 £499

SONY DVPS525/DVPS325
PAL/NTSC Players



DVPS525..£359.00
DVPS325..£299.00

*Superb value based players, feature AC3/DTS Output, magic-pad on-screen menu and superb pictures and sound. DVPS525 features built-in AC3 Decoder. – **CAN BE MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION.***

SONY PBDV30
Portable/Miniature-size PAL/NTSC DVD

SDB £399.00

Superb ultra-compact reg 2 player. Ideally suited to be used with GLASSTRON.

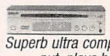
SONY DVPCX850
DVD Multi-Changer

SBD £549.00

Wonderful new Innovation, features PAL/NTSC region 2 playback, AC3/DTS output, and will hold/play 200 DVD/CD/VCD Discs!

CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION.

SONY DVPF11
DVD Ultra-Compact Player



SBD £349.00

Superb ultra compact PAL/NTSC player, AC3/DTS out-put, plays horizontally or vertical standing.

CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR MULTI-REGION.

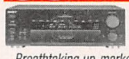
DOLBY DIGITAL AMPLIFIERS AND PROCESSORS

SONY STRDB930/830
AC3/DTS Receivers

STRDB930 . . . . .£399.00
STRDB830 . . . .£299.00

High-spec receivers featuring AC3/DTS processing, RDS tuner 100w x5 output, STRDB930 with digital cinema sound 2-way remote.

SONY STRDA50ES
AC3/DTSES/Receiver



SDB £599.00

Breathtaking up-market receiver combines 5.1 AC-3/Dolby Digital with DTS Processing for DTS DVD/LD, hi-power 100W x5. Full remote controllable via LCD-Touch Screen Panel.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHAMPAGNE GOLD £699.00

SONY TAE9000ES/TAN9000ES
ES/Ultra-Prestige Pre/Power Amp System AC3/DTS

TAE9000 PRE £899.00
POWER TAN9000. .£799.00

*The ultimate in SONY AC3/DTS amplification, power amp delivers 5 x 130 w. multiple a/v inputs on pre amp with unique SONY touch panel learning remote, **Gold finish only***

YAMAHA SWT300
Hi-Power Active Sub

SDB £279.00

Superb sub, bursting with power, a superb choice for any home-cinema set up!

YAMAHA SWT160
Power Sub

SDB £229.00

Great value, great spec. sub replacement of highly recommended SWT150

PIONEER NSDV1
Hi-Fi System Incorporating DVD

SDB £1099.00

*Superb new revolutionary design lifestyle Hi-Fi System with in-built DVD. **CAN BE FULLY MODIFIED FOR REGS 1-6***

DVD/AMP CLEARANCE BARGAINS

Denon AVR3200 AC 3 Amp **£449.00**

YAMAHA DSPA595A
Dolby Digital High Power Amp

SDB £279.00

Budget spec. Hi-power Dolby Digital Amp from one of the world's best makers of A/V amps.

YAMAHA RXV795A
RDS DTS/AC3 HI-Power Receiver

SDB £399.00

Excellent Hi-spec receiver combines Hi-power multiple A/V inputs and sheer brilliance of sound quality delivered by AC3/DTS.

YAMAHA DSPA1 AC 3/DTS
Dolby Digital Amplifier

SDB £999.00

Superb AC 3/DTS combination Dolby Digital amp. Bustling with power, many DSP modes. Couples with the smoothness of Dolby Digital Sound quality from AC.3DTS.

ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHAMPAGNE GOLD £1,299.00

NEW YAMAHA Amplifiers/Receivers

DSPAX1 Black	£1799.00
DSPAX1 Gold	£1899.00
RXV396	£229.00
RXV496	£279.00
RXV596	£349.00
DSPE800 DTS processor	£279.00
DSPA5	£299.00

DENON NEW AMPS
For 99/2000

AVR2800 . . . .£499.00
AVR3300 . . . .£599.00

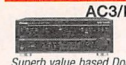
Also available in gold...£799.00

DENON AVCA1D
Ultimate Supremo THX/AC-3 DTS Dolby Digital Amplifier

SDB £1599.00

*"The ultimate in Home Cinema Amplification". Full THX/AC-3 DTS compatibility delivers breath taking sound realism with awesome power driven by 5.1 amplifiers. Full function learning remote and finished in a sleek gold metallic finish. **Also available in black, £1,699***

PIONEER VSX808RDS
AC3/DTS Amplifier



SDB £299.00

Superb value based Dolby Digital Amplifier. Features include hi-power output, 100W x5, 10x DSP modes, pre-in/out, 4x digital inputs & much more!

PIONEER VSX908
AC3/DTS Amplifier

SDB £649.00

*Superb hi-specification, features Dolby Digital/DTS Processing, THX, Power 110w x5, supplied with smart/ learning remote headset. **AVAILABLE IN BLACK/GOLD***

PIONEER VSAE07
AC3/DTS Hi-Power Amplifier

SDB £899.00

Superb hi-power amp, features 5x 130W output, THX Ultra, supplied with Exquisite LCD Touch-Panel Remote Control

SHARP VIDEO PROJECTOR

XVC20E PROJECTOR .£1,499.00

XVC1 . . . . . .£899.00

TOSHIBA WIDESCREEN TELEVISIONS

32WD98...£999.00
32ZD98...£1399.00

Superb Highly Recommended Widescreen Televisions, ultra-flat screens with Dolby Digital sound quality.

Panasonic TX28PK10/TX28PK1
50HZ/100HZ Wide

TX28PK1 . . . . . .£499.00
TX28PK10 . . . . . .£99.99

Elegant looking, beautifully styled widescreen Television, immaculate picture quality, great prices!

Panasonic TX32PF10/TX36PF10
100Hz Super-Flat Widescreen

TX32PF10 . . . .£1099.00
TX36PF10 . . . .£1699.00
ex-display

*Superb ultra-flat widescreen for '99, features include 100Hz Digital scan, high precision deflection, and superb all-round viewing angle. Special effects include picture-in-picture **Continental export version available.***

Panasonic TX47PT1
47" Mammoth NEW Widescreen Projection

SDB £2499.00

*Superb highly recommended projection features 100Hz digital scan, Dolby Pro-Logic picture in picture & full multi standard capabilities. **Continental export version available.***

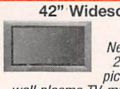
HITACHI CL43WP910TAN
Rear Projection

SDB £1999.00

Superb new Rear-Projection, hi-quality big picture matched with Dolby Digital Sound

HOME THEATRE TELEVISION

SONY PFM-500A2WE
42" Widescreen Plasma Television



SDB £5,995.00

New television technology for the 21st Century, probably the best pictures available on hang-on-the-wall plasma TV, multiple a/v and computer inputs, extremely lightweight and only 6" deep.

SONY KV32FC60Z/KV28FC60Z
NEW "DESIGNER"
32"/28" Widescreen Televisions

KV32FC60 £1599.00
KV28FC60 £1199.00

*32"/28" widescreen televisions with 100Hz picture scanning. **Continental export version available.***

SONY KV32FX60/KV28FX60
Widescreen Triniton Wega

KV32FX60 £1099.00
KV28FX60 .£799.00

*Budget-priced Wega televisions with 100Hz picture, scanning, multiple a/v inputs & much more. CONTINENTAL/EXPORT VERSION OF 32FX60. **ALSO AVAILABLE** £1199.00.*

ALSO AVAILABLE KV32DS60/KV28DS60 Intergrated/Digital £1699.00/£1399.00

SONY KV28FX20/KV32FX20
50HZ Budget-Wega Widescreen

KV28FX20 .£599.00
KV32FX20 .£799.00

*Excellent spec. WEGA televisions, features as KV28/32 FX60 with 50HZ Picture scanning – stunning lifelike pictures, excellent value!! **MULTI STANDARD EXPORT VERSIONS AVAILABLE PLEASE ENQUIRE.***

ALSO AVAILABLE KV28DX20/KV32DX20 £899.00/£1299.00.

SONY KV24WX1
24" Widescreen

SDB £399.00

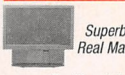
*Great spec. easy to accomodate 24" widescreen, superb value at just £449.00!! **CONTINENTAL EXPORT VERSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE – PLEASE ENQUIRE.***

SONY KV29FX20/KV29FX60
29" 4:3 Triniton Wega

KV29FX20 . . . .£499.00
KV29FX60 . . . .£699.00

*Superb specification Wega televisions, ultra-flat screen gives large viewing angle coupled with breathtaking lifelike features. Wega televisions are unrivalled in picture & performance. **KV29FX60 with 100Hz picture scanning.** EXPORT MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE – PLEASE ENQUIRE*

SONY KL50W2/2



SDB £2699.00

Superb Widescreen Rear Projection TV. Real Mammoth Viewing, excellent picture & sound quality.

Continental export version available.

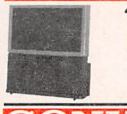
ALSO AVAILABLE KL50W2 Ex-Display £2299.00

SONY KP41PZ1
41" Wide Screen Projection

SDB £1,499.00

Elegant and very sophisticated Widescreen Rear Projection, very compact and slim, beautiful picture quality and full worldwide multi-standard Compatable

SONY KP41S5
41" 4:3 Rear Projection



SDB £1,299.00

Big screen viewing at a very attractive price!

SONY VPLVW10HT
Widescreen Hi-Performance LCD Projector

SDB £3,500 + VAT

State-of-the art Projector, provides hi-quality picture with stunning results!

GADGETS

SONY PLMA55/GLASSTRON
Virtual LCD-Display

Virtual cinema reality from a pair of specs. Marvel the wonder of this superb new gadget from Sony. Also available higher spec PLMS700. £1199.00.

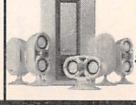
SDB £549.00

SONY MDRDS5000
Dolby digital headphones

SDB £299.00

World's first Virtual Dolby Digital head-phone system, Dolby digital decoder with infra-red transmitter, connection to DVD for full blown Dolby Digital separation.

SONY "Pascal"SAE705
5-Speaker Designer Speakers



SDB £399.00

Beautifully carved designed 5-speaker system, comprises of 5 satellite speakers, active sub, finished in silver

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" SDB IS SARDAR DOGRA BROS. LTD. "

8mm/Hi8 PALMCORDERS

SONY CCD-TR425
8mm Palmcorder
SDB £269.00
*Great value/great spec. home/family palmcorder, extensive features include 72x zoom, Nightshot, Remote, Special Effect, Titling, Optional High Stamina Battery & Much More – **TERRIFIC VALUE!!***

SONY CCD-TR515
Hi8 Palmcorder
SDB £309.00
Superb value-based Hi8 model, feautures include 72x zoom, steady shot, built in light! Nightshot/0-lux, remote special effects and much more!

SONY CCD-TR713/CCD-TR913
Hi8 Palmcorders
CCD-TR713...£369.00
CCD-TR913...£399.00
Excellent hi-specification Hi-8 models features include hi-power zooms, built in light, steady shot, laser link, remote titling, special effects, CCD-TR913 with 360x zoom, Time Base Corrector and Picture Noise Reduction.

SONY CCDTRV27
8mm Palmcorder with pull-out 2.5" Colour/Screen
SDB £359.00
*Great value new palmcorder, features include 72x zoom, 0-lux/night-shot, remote special effects, lithium Ion battery & much more – **EXCEPTIONAL VALUE!!***

SONY CCD-TRV36/CCD-TRV46
Hi8 Palmcorders with 2.5" Flip-out Screen
CCD-TRV36...£399.00
CCD-TRV46...£449.00
*Excellent new Hi8 palmcorders, feauture, 72x zoom, nightshot/o-lux, built in video light, remote, special effects and much more, **TRV46 with STEADY SHOT***

SONY CCD-TRV66
Hi8 Palmcorder with 2.5" LCD/Screen
SDB £489.00
Palmcorder features, 80x zoom, image stabiliser, built-in light/o-lux nightshot, remote effect, and time base correction with super digital noise reduction, a superb highly recommended camcorder for the enthusiast.

Panasonic NVVX24, NVVX44, NVVX54
VHS.C Slimvision palmcorders with Hi quality colour flip-out screen
NVVX24 . . . . . .£399.00
NVVX44 . . . . . .£429.00
NVVX54 . . . . . .£479.00
"NEW EXCEPTIONAL VHS-C PALMCORDERS WITH Flip-Out Screen. Extensive features include, powerful zooms, remote control, titling, special effects, low-light operation & much more". NVVX44 WITH IMAGE STABILISER & NVVX54 WITH 3" SCREEN PICTURE-IN-PICTURE & 300x ZOOM".

Hi8/8mm VCR

SONY EVC-400
Hi8 Rec/Playback Deck
SDB £319.00
Superb easy-to-use Hi8 rec/playback deck works with any video scource, ideal for duplicating 8mm/Hi8 recordings or simply saves wear/tear on Hi8/8mm Camcorders.

SONY EVC2000E
SDB £549.00
Hi8 Editing VCR, Jog Shutter, RCTC Recognition, Lanc, Stereo.

VIDEO PRESENTER

SONY GVA500 Hi8
Video Walkman/Presenter
SDB £649.00
Exciting unique new Hi8 Video Walkman. Combines hi-quality Hi8/8mm record and playback, all finely detailed on precision 4" LCD colour screen. Packed with essential features including: Lithimion battery technology. Optional laser link connection all encased in ultra lightweight design weighing only 300g.

VIDEO PRINTER

Panasonic NVMPD7
Digital Video Printer
NVMPD7 ....£299.00
Excellent Hi-Quality Printer. Ideally compatible with Panasonic range of DV Camcorders or Digital still Cameras.

JVC DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

JVC DV Budget-Palmcorders
GRDVL30 ....£549.00
GRDVL40 ....£599.00
Superb trio of Palmcorders, features include, 2.5, 3 & 3 & 3.5" flip out LCD screens, 160x digital zoom, special effects, colour viewfinder, remote image stabiliser, dv/still picture output & much more – TERRIFIC VALUE!!

JVC GRDVX4/GRDVX7
Digital Palmcorders
GRDVX4...........£799.00
GRVDX7...........£849.00
Superb compact palmcorders supplied with full PC connection kit for paint processing, editing and down-loading still images, camcorders features include 100z zoom, image stabiliser, built-in flash, remote, special effects & much more!

JVC GRDVL9500/9600
DV Palmcorders
GRDVL9500..............£899.00
GRDVL9600............£1099.00
Excellent hi-spec. palmcorders, extensive features include 100x zoom,remote, special effects, large 4" pull-out screen, supplied with full PC kit. ***DVL9600 with full firewire/DV.***

JVC DV CAMCORDERS

GRDVL9800 DV in/out 3.5" Screen	£1999.00
GRDVL9700 3.5" Screen/Flash Card	£1099.00
GRDVL9200 3.5" Screen/PC Link	£899.00
GRDVL100 2.5" Screen	£599.00
GRDVL300 3.5" Screen/DV In	£699.00
GRDVL107 2.5" Screen/DV In	£649.00

Canon DM-MV200
DV Palmcorder
SDB £549.00
Exceptional value DV Palmcorder, features include 2.5" LCD screen, 320x digital zoom, colour viewfinder, special effects, remote & much more.

Canon DMMV20 DV
SDB £749.00
*Beautifully designed ultra-compact 'upright' palmcorder, features include, 48x zoom, image stabiliser, 2.5" flip-out screen special effects, dv out & much more! **SUPERB VALUE.***

Canon DM-XL1
Digital 3CCD Camcorder
SDB £2299.00
Exceptional pro camcorder with superb features including hi-quality 3CCD interchangeable lens, DV line in, image stabiliser, manual record levels & much more. A must for the pro-enthusiast.

Canon DM-XM1
New 3CCD Digital
SDB £1499
Superb new revoletionary pro based 3CCD Digital camcorder, features include DV In/out, flourite lens, 20x optical zoom, optical imagestabiliser, wealth of manual over-rides.

JVC HRS7600/8600/9600
S-VHS VCR'S
HRS6600 £259.00
HRS7600 £279.00
HRS8600 £399.00
HRS9600 £479.00
Superb new value based, S-VHS VCR-S, both combing hi-quality pictures & sound, Dynamic Drum System allowing noise-free picture playback/seach.

JVC HM-DR1000
World's First D-VHS
SDB £1099.00
Exciting new Digital Video Recorder format includes MPEG2 CODEC for hi-quality images and sound DV Digital-to-Digital recording & more.

SONY VIDEO ACCESSORIES

DCCL50 DC ADAPTOR	£59.95
ECHMHSI MIC	£69.99
ECMS300C STEREO MIC	£89.95
VCL0030 TELE LENS FOR PC1	£69.95
VCL0637 WIDE LENS FOR 37MM CAMS	£49.95
HVLS3D 3W VIDEO LIGHT	£39.95
NPA10000 BATTERY BOX	£79.95
HVL20DW2 20W LIGHT	£89.95
IFTR10 LASER LINK	£49.95
SPKTRC SPORTS HOUSING	£159.95
SPKDVF/2 HOUSING FOR TRV7/9/TRV890/TRV900	£169.00
SPKPC2 HOUSING FOR DCRPC1/2/3	£199.00
DVBK2000E CAPTURE BOARD	£249.00
DVBKCW200 CAPTURE BOARD/ LAPTOP	£249.00
PHDA55E MEMORY STICK PHOTO FRAME	£599.00
BCV615 STANDARD AC CHARGER	£39.95
NPFS21 2 HR BATTERY FOR PC1/2/3	£69.95
ACVQ800 INDEPENDENT MULTI PURPOSE CHARGER	£129.00
DCQ800 DC VERSION OF ABOVE	£99.00
ACV011 QUICK INFO CHARGER FOR PC1/2/3	£99.00
DCVF10 DC INFO CHARGER FOR PC1/2/3	£129.00
LCLR0752 WIDE ANGLE FOR TRV890/900	£89.95
LCHTRV900 ALUMINIUM CASE FOR TRV890/900	£179.00
VCLR0752 WIDE ANGLE FOR TRV890/900	£89.95
MEMORY STICKS 4MB/8MB/16MB/32MB/64MB/128MB	£19.95/£29.95/£39.95/£69.95/£119.95
HVLIRH1 NIGHTSHOT LIGHT 3W	£49.95
HVLIRH2 NIGHTSHOT LIGHT WITH 3W	£69.95
HVLIRC NIGHTSHOT LIGHT	£69.95
HVL10DC LIGHT FOR PC1/2/3	£59.95
HVLFDH3 VIDEO LIGHT 3W/FLASH	£99.00
MSAC-CP2 LAP TOP ADAPTOR	£59.00
MSAC-FD1A FLOPPY DRIVE ADAPTOR	£69.00
DPPMS300E PRINTER/MEMORY STICK PRINTER	£499.00
FVP1 PRINTER	£499.00
LCMTRV10 CASE FOR TRV8/10	£29.95
VCT870 TRIPOD WITH REMOTE FUNCTION	£129.95

Panasonic DIGITAL CAMCORDERS

Panasonic NV-DS8
DV BUDGET PALMCORDER
SDB £399.00
Superb value for money DV Palmcorder, features include, 20x zoom. Special effects. Image stabiliser & much more!

Panasonic NV-DS11
Digital Compact Palmcorder
SDB £549.00
Unbelievably great value DV Palmcorder, features include, 2.5" LCD Pull Out Screen, 20x Optical Zoom/400x Digital, Special Effects Image Stabiliser, Photo Shot Mode & Much More. – OPTIONAL PC SOFTWARE AVAILABLE FOR PRINTING DIGITAL STILLS.

Panasonic NV-EX3
Slim DV Palmcorder
SDB £699.00
Exquisite compact-dv palmcorder, possible the smallest lightest DV palmcorder in the world, features include 12x zoom, special effects, pull-out screen and progressive photo-shot.

Panasonic NVDS33
Digital Palmcorder
SDB £749.00
Superb ultra-compact, ultra-lightweight Digital Palmcorder, features include 10x zoom, Special Effects, digital photo shot & much more!

Panasonic NVDS99
Mini-DV Palmcorder
SDB £799.00
Ultra-compact Mini-DV palmcorder, features include 100x zoom, image stabiliser, progressive photoshot for ultra high still images, 3.8" LCD flip-out screen & much more!!

Panasonic NV-DX110
Sold out £1099 incl VAT
3CCD Digital Camcorder
SDB £999.00
Truly exciting semi-pro 3 CCD Palmcorder. Hi-specification including, 24 x Zoom, Image Stabiliser, Precise Colour Viewfinder, Hi-quality 2.5'' LCD fold out screen, Digital Still capture facility, Special effects & much more. NVDX110 with factory fitted DV/Line In. ***Also available NVDX100...£899.00***

Panasonic DV CAMCORDERS

NVDS35 2.5" Screen	£Phone for Low Price
NVDS55 2.5" Screen/Flash Memory	£Phone for Low Price

Panasonic NV-DV10000
DV VCR Recorder/Player
SDB £1399.00
Exceptional DV Recorder/Player, takes full size/min dv tapes, features include, wireless remote, assemble/insert editing, audio dubbing firewire in/out, five pin editing terminal and much more.

JVC HRDVS1
DV/S-VHS DECK
SDB £1099.00
Revolutionary DV Deck features DV Playback/S-VHS/VHS Record. Features include 2-way Firewire, synchro editing, random assemble editing, insert editing, audio dubbing, special effects & much more!

Panasonic NVHS850/NVHS950
S-SVHS VCR's
NVHS850........£399.00
NVHS950........£449.00
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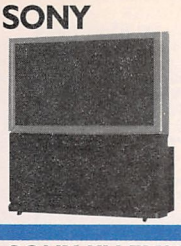

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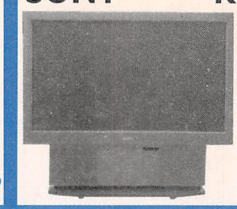

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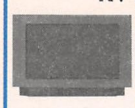

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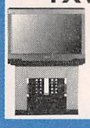

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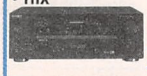

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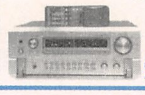

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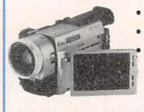

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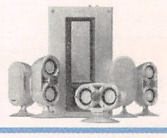

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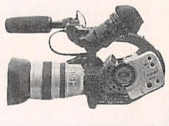

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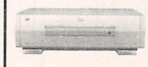
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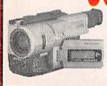
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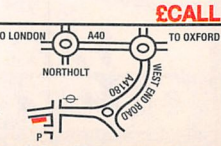

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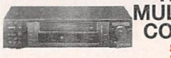

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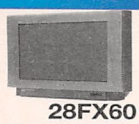

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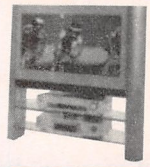


- Haute Couture
- Flat Screen
- 100Hz
- Dual Drive Speakers
- Without cabinet

KV32FC60 £999.00

CCD TR713/913

- Video Hi8
- 72x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Stabilizer
- Built In Light

CCD TR713 £329.00
CCD TR913 £349.00
0121 554 1878

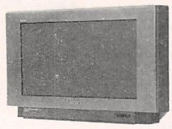
KV-32DS60/KV-28DS60

KV-32DS60
- Flatscreen
- Digital Dolby Prologic

£1549.00

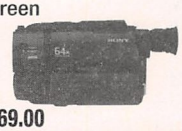
KV-28DS60
- Flatscreen
- Digital Dolby Prologic

£1249.00



CCDTRV27/36

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Video 8
- 72x Zoom
- Nightshot



CCD TRV27 £369.00
CCD TRV36 £415.00 0121 554 1878

DCRTRV900

- 48x zoom stabilizer
- 3.5" flipout screen
- 16 bit digital sound

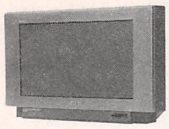
Digital Camera
New compact pro 3CCDWV Palmcorder

DCRTRV900 £1349.00

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

KV-32FD1

- Flatscreen
- 100 Hz
- Scart picture in picture
- RGB



£1999.00

CCD TRV46/66

- Steady Shot
- Built In Light
- 2.5" LCD Screen
- Video Hi8
- 72/80x Zoom
- Nightshot
- Picture Effects
- Hi-Fi Stereo

CCD TRV46 £459.00
0121 554 1878 **CCD TRV66 £489.00**

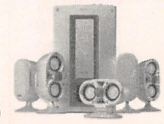
SONY KP41DS1

DIGITAL TELEVISION

- 41" Rear Projector
- On Digital Decoder
- Nicam
- NTSC Playback Via Scart

£1599.00

SONY SPEAKERS



S-AVE 705

- Set of SONY speakers

£389.00

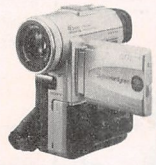
DCR TR7000

- 80x Digital Zoom
- Steady Shot
- Nightshot
- Timecode
- Colour Viewfinder

£449.00 0121 554 1878

SONY DCR PC100

- New digital palmcorder



£1199.00

KV32DX20/KV28DX20

- 28"/32" flatscreen
- VEGA integrated digital TV
- 50Hz
- Digital picture
- Digital stereo sound

KV32DX20 £1099
KV28DX20 £799 0121 554 1878

CCD-TRV67

- Video Hi8 • 2.5" LCD screen (61K dots)
- SteadyShot (380K CCD)
- NicamShot 0 Lux
- Built-in light
- 80x D.zoom (20x optical)
- TBC, S-DNR
- Manual focus dial/fader

Also available
CCD-TRV57 £445.00
CCD-TRV48 £405.00

£486.00

DCR TRV310

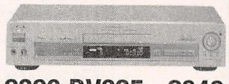
- Digital 8
- Digital Recording
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Photomode
- Time Code
- 3.5" LCD Screen
- Nightshot
- Steadyshot

£649.00 0121 373 2120

DVPS525/325

- Dolby digital with DTS Stream out
- Pal/NTSC playback
- Audio CD

MULTI REGION



DV 525 £399 DV325 £349
0121 554 1878

DCR PC2/3

- Photomode
- Manual Controls
- 10x Optical Zoom
- 2.5" LCD Screen

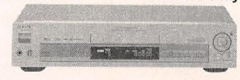
PC2 £879
PC3 £989

Digital Palmcorder

DVPS 725D/DVP S7700

DVPS 725D
- PAL/NTSC Playback
- Dolby Digital
- DTS Streamout

DVP S7700
- Ultra-Prestige/ ES New DVD Player
- AC3/DTS Player



£489.00 Multi-region **£599.00**

DCR TRV510

- 4" LCD Screen
- Colour Viewfinder
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Steadyshot

£799.00 0121 554 1878

SONY STRDB930

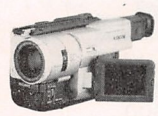
- DOLBY PRO LOGIC RECIEVER
- ALSO AVAILABLE STRDB 930

STRDB930 £389

BEST BUY WHAT VIDEO & TV

DCR TRV110

- 2.5" LCD Screen
- 80x Digital Zoom
- Nightshot
- Steadyshot



£549.00
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DCR TRV10

- 40x zoom
- LCD monitor
- Memory stick slot
- Colour viewfinder
- Steady shot

£849.00 0121 554 1878

DCR-TRV320

- Memory stick slot built-in<DSC functions MS/PC-application accessory supplied MS(4MB), Serial cable, PictureGear 3.2Lite
- Digital 8 Hi-Resolution Recording
- LP Recording
- 2.5" LCD Screen (123K dots)

£647.00

DCR-TRV120

- Digital 8 Hi-Resolution recording
- LP recording
- 2.5" LCD screen (123K dots)
- Super SteadyShot (800k CCD)
- Super Nightshot 0 Lux
- Playback zoom
- Link (DV out)

£566.00

DCR-TR8000

- Digital 8 Hi-Resolution recording
- LP recording
- 2.5" LCD screen (123K dots)
- Super SteadyShot (800k CCD)
- Super Nightshot 0 Lux
- Playback zoom
- Link (DV out)
- Super Laser Link

£486.00

CCD-TRV87

- Video Hi8 XR
- 2.5" LCD screen (61K dots)
- SteadyShot (570K CCD)
- Super Nightshot 0 Lux
- Built-in light
- Super laser link
- 80x D. zoom (20x optical)
- Manual focus dial/fader

Also available
CCD-TRV620 £799.00
CCD-TRV820 £969.00

£526.00

DVD PLAYERS

DVPS 7700 £599 **DVPS 525D £399**
DVPS 725D £489 **DVPS 325D £349**

VIDEO RECORDERS

SLVSE 70 £195 **SLVSE 85 £229** **SLVE 1000 £569** **SLVT 2000 £639**
SLVSE 80 £219 **SLVSE 930 £339** **SLVSF 99 £319**

Prices are subject to change due to difference in copy date and publication date.

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255 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham
TEL: 0121 373 2120

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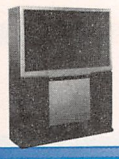
0121 554 1878 CAMCORDER CENTRE 0121 373 2120

CANON DM-MV200/20

- 2.5in LCD Screen
- 12x Optical Zoom
- Colour Viewfinder

DM-MV200 £599.00
DM-MV20 £729.00

TOSHIBA 56 PW8



- 56" Rear projection TV
- Dolby pro-logic
- Dolby digital
- Rear speakers

£2599.00

TOSHIBA SD3109/SD9000

MULTIREGION DVD PLAYERS

SD 3109 £359.00
SD 9000 £489.00

JVC XV515

MULTIREGION DVD PLAYER

0121 554 1878
0121 373 2120
£279.00

JVC HRS9600EK

- High resolution
- Time jog and scan
- Nicam

£429.00
0121 554 1878

32WD98/32ZD98

NEW
32WD98
£999.00
32ZD98
£1299.00

PIONEER DVD626

MULTIREGION DVD PLAYER

0121 554 1878
0121 373 2120
£379.00

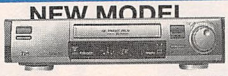
PANASONIC TX36PF10

- 36 Inch Flat Sreen
- Picture & Picture
- 100Hz

£1849.00

JVC HRS7600/8600

NEW MODEL



HRS7600 HRS8600 • Super VHS • 4 Head Nicam
£259.00 £349.00 • Timebase corrector
• Editing features
0121 554 1878

JVC CAMCORDERS

GRDVF10EK
GRDVF1EK
GRDL9500
GRDL9600
GRDVX4
JVCGR-DVL20
JVCGR-DVL40

PHONE FOR BARGAIN
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PANASONIC DVDL50

DVD PLAYER MULTI REGION
0121 554 1878
0121 373 2120

£699.00

PANASONIC NVDX110

- 24x Zoom
- Image stabiliser
- 2.5" flip-out screen
- Remote control
- DV in & out

£1099.00 0121 554 1878

PANASONIC DVDA160

DVD PLAYER MULTI REGION

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0121 373 2120
£299.00

PANASONIC DVD360

DVD PLAYER MULTI REGION

0121 554 1878
0121 373 2120
£399.00

PANASONIC NVDS99

- New digital palmcorder

NOW
£849.00

PIONEER DV717/DVL919

DV717 MULTIREGION £449
DVL919 MULTIREGION £699

PANASONIC NVS33

- Small & lightweight
- 2.5" LCD screen
- 10x optical zoom

£729.00
0121 554 1878
0121 373 2120

JVC HR DVS 1EK

- Mini DV and Super VHS combi
- Nicam stereo
- Easy edit
- 4 head
- DV input

£999.00 HMDR10000 £1149.00
0121 554 1878 0121 373 2120

PANASONIC NVDS11

NVDS11
- 2.5" LCD
- 40 x Zoom
- New Digital Camera

£549.00
0121 554 1878 0121 373 2120

TOSHIBA

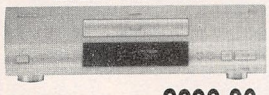
Dolby/3398 100Hz
Pro Logic 33" Dolby

- Dolby digital pro-logic
- Picture NR 16:9 mode
- NTSC 3.58/4.43MHz playback
- Three scarts
- Audio left/right phono out

£799.00

PIONEER DV525

MULTIREGION

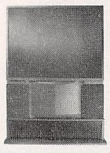


- New model
- Multi region

£299.00

TOSHIBA 50PJ98

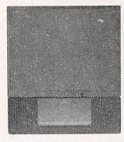
- 50 Inch
- Widescreen



£1999.00

TOSHIBA 43PJ93

- 43" rear projection Nicam TV



£1199.00

TOSHIBA 40PW8

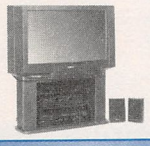
- 40" Widescreen
- Dolby Pro-Logic with Rear Surround Speakers
- 40" rear projection
- Dolby Digital
- 50 watts RMS

HOME CINEMA BUY

40PW8 SALE £1499.00

TOSHIBA 32MW8/32MW7

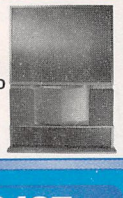
- 32" superflat widescreen
- Invar mask • 100 Hz
- 5 speaker Dolby pro-logic
- 90W RMS output
- Subwoofer
- Built-in centre speaker
- 5 mode DSP
- NTSC video playback



£899.00

TOSHIBA 61PJ98

- 56" screen
- Dolby pro-logic
- projection television
- Ni-cam digital stereo

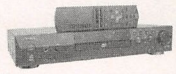


£2499.00

TOSHIBA SD2109

DVD PLAYER

- DTS
- DVD Player
- Advanced Sound & Picture



MULTIREGION
- DVD Player • Home Cinema
- Advanced sound and picture

£259.00

CANON DM-XM1

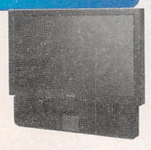
- 3 CCD
- 20x Zoom
- Optical image stabiliser

£1499.00 DM-XL1 £2299.00

KP 41S5

- High contrast screen
- Scratch proof screen
- NTSC video input
- Fast-text

41" Rear Projection



SALE £1099.00

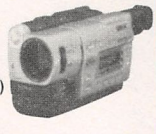
CCD-TR427

- Video Hi8
- Nightshot 0 Lux
- 80x D.zoom (20x optical)
- TBC, S-DNR

£324.00

CCD-TR918

- Video Hi8 XR
- SteadyShot (570K CCD)
- Super Nightshot 0 Lux
- Built-in light
- Super laser link
- 80x D. zoom (20x optical)



£445.00

CCD-TR717

- Video Hi8
- SteadyShot (380K CCD)
- Nightshot 0 Lux
- Built-in light
- 80x D. zoom (20x optical)
- TBC, S-DNR

£405.00

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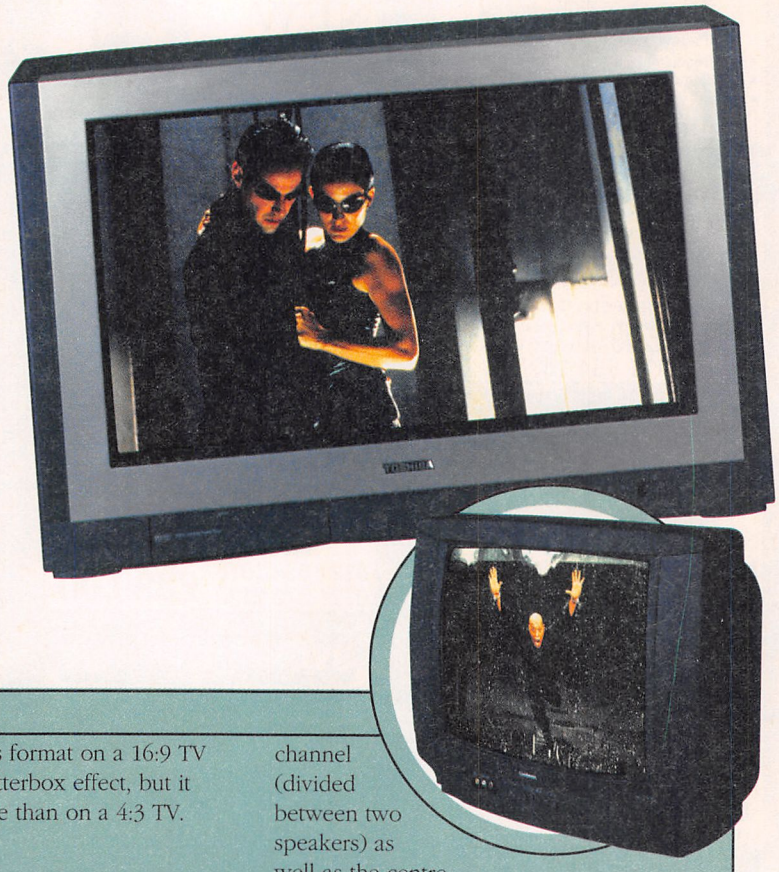
BUYERS GUIDE

Your guide to the world of TVs, video recorders, DVD players, camcorders, home cinema audio and much more



Until recently there wasn't much difference between TVs except size, teletext and Nicam stereo sound. Now there's widescreen, flatscreen, Dolby Pro-Logic and Dolby Digital. The same applies to VCRs, which will now join camcorders in the digital realm and soon the whole process of using cassettes will be replaced by hard drive recorders and rewriteable DVD. Here are a few basic pointers to accompany our *Buyers' Guide* pages.

PRICES

The prices that we quote are typical retail prices. Since the abolition of recommended retail prices for certain consumer electronics items, prices can vary widely (and occasionally pricing for brand-new products is difficult to find until they reach retailers). If you look through the advertisers in the magazine, you will probably be able to find products selling for far less. If this does happen, then use your own judgement to make an upgrade to our value ratings in Section 2.

TVs

4:3 SCREEN RATIO

The traditional, almost square shape of screen still used for a large number of TV broadcasts. Due to their proliferation, these kinds of sets are the cheapest, especially if you choose no-frills models, although features like teletext and Nicam stereo are now almost standard. A drawback is that on smaller screen sizes, widescreen programming must be viewed in 'letterbox' format, making the actual image size comparatively less. Most DVD films, for example, are only available in widescreen.

16:9 WIDESCREEN RATIO

Widescreen sets are fast catching up and will eventually be the norm. A large (eg 32in) 16:9 ratio screen will produce an image height similar to a 25in 4:3 TV, but of course will have extra width – ideal for watching films (if broadcast in widescreen or played from widescreen video or disc). Prices are generally higher than for 4:3 TVs, but there are already examples of bargain widescreen sets. Remember to check the number and type of connections, such as Scart sockets, etc and make sure they are adequate for your needs.

NB: cinema ratios vary and the widest currently in use, the Cinemascope or Panavision type, is actually 2.35:1 (or 21:9). Watching films in this format on a 16:9 TV will still result in a letterbox effect, but it will be less noticeable than on a 4:3 TV.

PROJECTION SYSTEMS

For when size really does matter, rear-projection TVs (or alternatively, video projectors plus a cinema-style screen) are the most cost-effective way to go. Plasma TVs and other flatscreen technology has yet to establish itself as a consumer proposition due to the sheer cost. Rear-projection sets, though still rather costly, are lightweight and slimline compared to hefty cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs.

They are best suited for digitally based media such as digital TV and DVD. The large image size can exaggerate deficiencies in the picture quality and image brightness, contrast and colour convergence do not always compare well with CRT.

STEREO AND SURROUND SOUND TVs

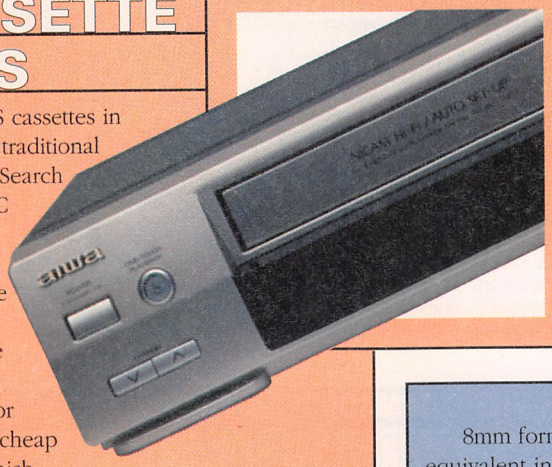
Now a fixture of TVs and most VCRs, Nicam stereo is rapidly being overtaken by surround systems. Dolby Pro-Logic has existed for years but is still being as a state-of-the-art feature in some new TVs. This isn't really true – it only supplies one rear music/effects channel (divided between two speakers) as well as the centre channel, but in the UK for the time being, only DVD carries the superior Dolby Digital (see *Home Cinema* below).

TVs with built-in Dolby Digital are still in the minority, but the spread of DVD is changing this. TVs and players with 'pseudo-surround' manipulate stereo effects to simulate the effect of rear speakers. Some TVs offer the option of adding actual speakers as they often use Pro-Logic. Pseudo-surround is best regarded as expanded stereo and is no substitute for true surround.

INTEGRATED DIGITAL TVs

These next-generation breeds of TV will handle both standard analogue and digital broadcasting. Most are designed for terrestrial (ONdigital) use, though many come as 'free-to-air' receivers only. Modules are supposedly being developed to enable smart card (subscription channel) access, as well as possible cross-platform compatibility between digital satellite and terrestrial. IDTVs are a neat but still comparatively expensive solution given that set-top boxes are free to subscribers for the forseeable future.

VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS



Due to the vast numbers of VHS cassettes in existence, there's still life in the traditional VCR. Long play (LP) and Index Search are now standard features. NTSC playback compatibility is fast becoming commonplace, as are VideoPlus and PDC (programme delivery control), which make timer recording easier and more reliable. Main choices will be between audio formats (mono or stereo – the latter becoming so cheap that mono-only decks could vanish altogether) and format (VHS, the superior S-VHS and the latest enhancement – D-VHS with digital recording).

There are also the intermediate and dual-format dubbing decks that use 8mm and/or DV camcorder formats, and in some cases combine them with VHS or S-VHS. Other features on the humble VCR to consider include editing-orientated features such as front AV input, audio dubbing and jog/shuttle tape motion controls, but don't pay for these if you don't really need them.

CAMCORDERS

Camcorders used to be judged on size, but now most are palm-sized regardless of format – and most models now incorporate image stabilisation devices to counter picture shake. Some camcorders offer basic onboard editing facilities and features such as hi-fi stereo sound – decide how important these are for you.

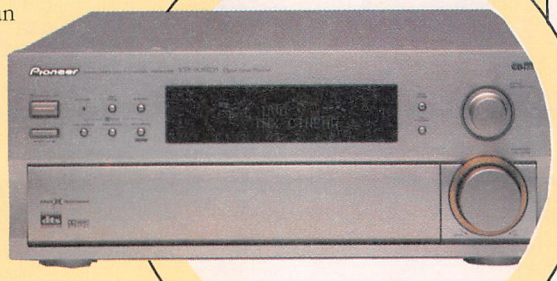
VHS is the standard home format, and the one that virtually all pre-recorded video tapes come in. Full-sized VHS camcorders have largely been replaced by compact VHS-C and S-VHS-C versions. Adaptors mean the small cassettes will play in VHS and S-VHS VCRs respectively.

8mm formats are more compact, standard 8mm being roughly equivalent in picture quality to VHS and Hi8 to S-VHS. These can't be played in VHS decks, so they have to be viewed or copied off using the AV output of the camcorder.

The latest and best camcorder formats are DV (Digital Video) and Digital8 (from Sony). DV models from Sony, Panasonic, Canon, Samsung, Sharp and JVC, with superb sound and picture quality, are redefining both picture and sound performance.

HOME CINEMA

Separates-based home cinema systems inevitably offer better sound quality than all-in-one Dolby Pro-Logic TVs. If you have an existing hi-fi amplifier you'll need a separate decoder for surround sound (eg Dolby Digital). Otherwise, go for an integrated surround sound amp or a receiver (if you want a built-in radio tuner). Processors amplify the effects channels only. Subwoofers can be added to boost bass output and allow the use of less visually intrusive main-channel speakers.



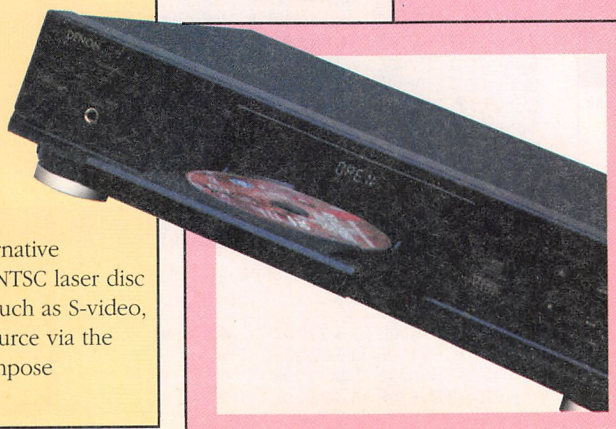
THX (Tomlinson Holman's experiment) is a stringent variant of DPL. You'll need THX-rated software, decoders and speakers to benefit. Dolby's Digital format, formerly known as AC-3, offers quite spectacular results, thanks to the five channels of discrete audio, and a dedicated subwoofer channel. In the UK, only DVDs are able to offer Dolby Digital soundtracks. DTS is another alternative 5.1-channel format available on NTSC laser disc and a few DVDs. Video inputs, such as S-video, are used to feed the playback source via the surround sound unit and superimpose menu/operating data on request.

DVD (DIGITAL VERSATILE DISC)

This fast-growing format has quickly replaced laser discs as the format for home entertainment with more movies, music and other material becoming available all the time. Region 2 (Europe and Japan) players are PAL- and NTSC-compatible, though unless the machine is modified it won't play Region 1 (USA) titles.

Nearly all players will output NTSC as pure NTSC, so ensure that your television is also NTSC-compatible as well. A small number of players (eg Samsungs) convert or partially convert NTSC to PAL.

Most players have Scart connections allowing RGB output (the best way to view discs) or S-video (the next best). Opinion is divided as to whether optical or coaxial digital output is best for connecting to Dolby Digital/DTS surround sound systems. Players with 5.1-channel outputs mean that a separate Dolby Digital decoder isn't necessary, just a surround sound amplifier with suitable inputs.



All DVD players should play CDs and Video CDs, though only a few models will play back recordable or re-recordable CD media (for those who burn their own CDs). Certain players have compatibility problems with certain discs (for example, the Proline DVD1000 won't play *The Matrix*), so check our reviews before buying a player ❐

CURRENT products

This section lists the current ranges from our major suppliers across our core product areas. We're doing this because we just don't have enough space to review every single product out there – so this way we can at least provide you with some of the most essential information.

Along with the second section of the *Buyers' Guide*, which lists the best of what we've seen over the last few years, you can also refer to our *Reprints* page to obtain a full review of tests dating back four or five years.

With the current rate of technological progress, anything beyond that would need to be listed under antiquities!

This section will be constantly updated but, by necessity, we rely on the information supplied to us. Let us know what you think and we'll do our best to deliver

VHS-C CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Manual exposure	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Audio dub	Weight (kg)	Colour VF/monitor	Guide price
Bush VCC200	4.6-46/10x			●		M		0.98		£300
JVC GR-AX280	3.8-83.6/22x		●	●		M		0.80		£300
JVC GR-FX10	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●		M		0.90		£400
JVC GR-FXM15	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●		M		0.90		£500
JVC GR-FXM65	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●		M		0.97		£650
Panasonic NV-RX14	3.8-79.8/22x			●		M		0.95		£350
Panasonic NV-RX24	3.7-81.4/22x	●		●		M		0.95		£400
Panasonic NV-RX64	3.7-81.4/22x	●		●		M		0.95		£500
Panasonic NV-VX24	3.7-81.4/22x			●		M		0.95		£550
Panasonic NV-VX44	3.7-81.4/22x			●		M		0.95		£600
Panasonic NV-VX54	3.7-81.4/22x	●		●		M		0.95		£650

S-VHS-C CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Manual exposure	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Audio dub	Weight (kg)	Colour VF/monitor	Guide price
JVC GR-SX20	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●		M		1.06		£450
JVC GR-SRM25	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●		M		1.06		£600
Panasonic NV-SX30	3.9-66.3/17x	●		●	●	S		0.80		£400
Panasonic NV-SX50	3.9-66.3/17x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.8	●	£450

8MM CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Manual exposure	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Weight (kg)	Colour view-finder/monitor	Guide price
Canon UC-8000	4-88/22x		●	●	●	M	0.94		£350
Canon UC-9500	4-88/22x	●	●	●	●	M	0.94	●	£430
Canon UC-V200	4-88/22x	●		●	●	M	1.09	●	£350
Canon UC-V300	4-88/22x	●		●	●	M	1.09	●	£430
Hitachi VM-E330	4-64/16x			●		M	0.89		£350
Hitachi VM-E535	4-64/16x			●		M	1.10		£500
Samsung VP-A20	3.9-62.4/16x				●	M	0.87		£330
Samsung VP-A22	3.9-62.4/16x	●			●	M	0.87		£330
Samsung VP-L90	3.9-62.4/16x			●	●	S	1.82	●	£600
Samsung VP-L100	3.9-62.4/16x		●			M	0.95		£430
Samsung VP-L150	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●			M	0.95		£470
Sanyo VM-EX580	4-64/16x					S	0.88	●	£250
Sanyo VM-LC100	4.0-64x16x					M	1.00		£300
Sanyo VM-LC200	4.0-64/16x	●				M	1.00	●	£700
Sharp VL-S1	4.0-64/16x	●		●		S	0.86	●	£400
Sharp VL-SE10	4.0-64/16x	●		●		S	0.86	●	£600
Sharp VL-E610	4.0-64/16x			●		M	0.90	●	£390
Sharp VL-E760	4.0-64/16x	●		●		M	0.80	●	£470
Sony CCD-TR425E	4.1-73.8/18x			●	●	M	0.77		£450
Sony CCD-TRV27E	4.1-73.8/18x			●	●	M	0.89		£550
Sony RUVI (cartridge)	3.4-10.2/3x					M	0.47	●	£550

Hi8 CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Manual exposure	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Weight (kg)	Colour view-finder/monitor	Guide price
Canon UC-V20Hi	3.9-85.8/22x	●			●	S	1.09		£530
Canon UC-V30Hi	3.9-85.8/22x	●		●	●	S	1.09	●	£550
Hitachi VM-H520	4-48/12x			●	●	S	1.02		£800
Samsung VP-A55	3.9-62.4/16x	●		●		S	1.00		£630
Samsung VP-L95	3.9-62.4/16x	●		●	●	S	1.92	●	£750
Sharp VL-H770	4.2-50.4/12x	●		●	●	S	0.87	●	£800
Sharp VL-H550H	4.2-50.4/12x	●	●	●		S	1.00		£1,400
Sony CCD-TRV36E	4.1-73.8/18x		●	●	●	M	0.89		£600
Sony CCD-TRV46E	4.1-73.8/18x		●	●	●	M	0.90		£650
Sony CCD-TRV66E	3.6-72/20x	●	●	●	●	S	0.90	●	£700
Sony CCD-TR515E	4.1-73.8/18x		●	●	●	M	0.80		£500
Sony CCD-TR713E	4.1-73.8/18x	●	●	●	●	M	0.82		£550
Sony CCD-TR913E	3.6-72/20x	●	●	●	●	S	0.81		£600

DIGITAL8 CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Manual exposure	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Weight (kg)	Colour view-finder/monitor	Guide price
Sony CCD-TR7000E	3.6-72/20x	●	●	●	●	S	0.93	●	£700
Sony CCD-TRV110E	3.6-72/20x	●	●	●	●	S	0.93	●	£800
Sony CCD-TRV310E	3.6-72/20x	●	●	●	●	S	0.96	●	£900
Sony CCD-TRV510E	3.6-72/20x	●	●	●	●	S	0.93	●	£1,100

KEY TO CAMCORDER TABLES

Focal Range: Indicates the range of angles which the lens can convert at its wide and tele settings.
Image Stabiliser: Built-in anti-shake mechanism.
Exposure Control: Exposure in many camcorders is fully automatic, but some have a backlight compensator for shooting against the light, or a manual iris for deliberate under- or over-exposure.
Manual focus : Serious users often prefer a manual option for greater control.
External Mic: A socket to plug in an off-camera microphone.
Audio System: Mono or stereo.
Audio Dub: Replaces soundtrack without interfering with the picture.
Weight: Including supplied battery and cassette.
Colour Viewfinder: As distinct from the black-and-white variety.

DV CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Manual exposure	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Audio dub	Weight (kg)	Colour view-finder/monitor	Guide price
Canon DM-MV200	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●	●	S		0.85	●	£800
Canon DM-MV20	4.1-49.2/12x	●	●	●		S	●	0.69	●	£900
Canon DM-MV1	5.2-72.8/14x	●	●	●	●	S		1.07	●	£1,000
Canon DM-XL1	5.5-88/16x	●	●	●	●	S		2.86	●	£2,700
JVC GR-DVL20	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.79	●	£600
JVC GR-DVL30	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.79	●	£650
JVC GR-DVL40	3.9-62.4/16x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.79	●	£700
JVC GR-DVX4	3.6-36/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.65	●	£1,100
JVC GR-DVX7	3.6-36/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.65	●	£1,200
JVC GR-DVL9500	5-50/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.77	●	£1,400
JVC GR-DVL9600	5-50/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.77	●	£1,600
Panasonic NV-DS8	3.8-76/20x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.64	●	£600
Panasonic NV-DS11	3.8-76/20x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.64	●	£700
Panasonic NV-DS33	3.6-36/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.60	●	£1,200
Panasonic NV-DS99	3.6-36/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.60	●	£1,200
Panasonic NV-EX3	3.6-36/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.53	●	£1,400
Panasonic NV-DX100	4.2-47.7/12x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.70	●	£1,400
Panasonic NV-DX110	4.2-47.7/12x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.70	●	£1,600
Sharp VL-DC3	4.5-45/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.80	●	£1,100
Sharp VL-PD3	4.7-47/10x	●		●	●	S	●	0.66	●	£1,200
Sony DCR-PC1	3.3-33/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.46	●	£1,100
Sony DCR-PC3	3.3-33/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.63	●	£1,300
Sony DCR-TRV10	3.3-33/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.65	●	£1,300
Sony DCR-TRV890	4.3-51.6/12x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.88	●	£1,500
Sony DCR-PC100	3.3-33/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.65	●	£1,600
Sony DCR-TRV900	4.3-51.6/12x	●	●	●	●	S	●	0.88	●	£1,600
Sony DCR-VX1000	5.9-59/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	1.5	●	£2,000
Sony DCR-VX9000	5.9-59/10x	●	●	●	●	S	●	3.4		£2,600

KEY TO DVD PLAYERS

System: Almost all Region 2 players are NTSC-compatible as well as PAL, because Japan is included in R2 and uses NTSC. This does not denote Region 1 compatibility, although American discs coded Region 0 will play on these players.

RGB (Red/Green/Blue): The best way to view an AV input, usually via Scart. Check for TV compatibility.

S-video: Second-best way to view an AV input, either via Scart or dedicated S-video input. **Scart:** An inidication of the number of sockets.

Digital output (for bitstream audio connection to surround sound decoder): O= optical digtial output via fibre optic connection; C= coaxial digital output. Opinions vary as to which is best, so ideally look to have both.

DTS (Digital Theatre Systems): Rival 5.1-surround sound system to Dolby Digital. Connect player's digital output to a compatible receiver.

Dolby Digital 5.1 outputs: This means the Dolby Digital 5.1 channels are decoded internally & can be connected directly by phono sockets to a surround sound amplifier (a dedicated decoder/receiver is not required).

Comments: any additional notes of interest, eg CD-R/RW-compatible – will play recordable CD media; component video out – suitable for high-end TVs and projectors; quasi-PAL NTSC conversion – converts NTSC to PAL or PAL60 for TVs without full NTSC compatibility.

DVD PLAYERS

System	Model	RGB	S-video	Scart	Digital output	DTS	Dolby Digital 5.1 outputs	Guide price	Comments
PAL/NTSC	Denon DVD-2500	●	●	2	O/C	●			
PAL/NTSC	Denon DVD-3000	●	●	2	O/C		●	£700	
PAL/NTSC	Denon DVD-5000	●	●	0	O/C			£1,600	
PAL/NTSC	Grundig GDV 100D	●		1	C			£530	
PAL/NTSC	Hitachi DV-P250	●	●	2	O/C	●		£299	CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	JVC XV-501BK	●	●	2	O/C	●			
PAL/NTSC	JVC XV-505GD	●	●	2	O/C	●			
PAL/NTSC	JVC XV-701GD	●	●	2	O/C	●	●		
PAL/NTSC	Kenwood DVF-5010	●	●	2	O/C		●		
PAL/NTSC	Kenwood DVF-9010	●	●	2	O/C		●		
PAL/NTSC	LG DVD-2330	●	●	1	O/C	●			CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	LG DVD-2380	●	●	1	O/C	●	●		CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	Onkyo DV-S525	●	●	2	O/C	●		£500	
PAL/NTSC	Panasonic DVD-A360	●	●	2	O/C	●	●	£580	
PAL/NTSC	Panasonic DVD-L50		●	0	O	●		£900	portable with LCD screen
PAL/NTSC	Panasonic CX-DV1500			0	O/C	●	●	£2,500	in-car system with LCD monitor
PAL/NTSC	Philips DVD710				C			£280	
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DVL-909		●	2	O/C			£900	CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DVL-919				O/C				
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DV-717	●	●	2	O/C			£600	CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DV-515	●	●	1	O/C			£450	
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DV-525	●	●	1	O/C	●		£300	CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DV-626	●	●	1	O/C	●	●	£450	CD-R/RW-compatible
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer PDV-LC10		●	0	O/C	●			portable with LCD screen
PAL/NTSC	Samsung DVD-709	●	●	1	C	●		£250	Quasi-PAL NTSC conversion
PAL/NTSC	Samsung DVD-909	●	●	1	O/C	●	●	£380	Quasi-PAL NTSC conversion
PAL/NTSC	Samsung MAX-945D			0				£500	3-tray audio/DVD Mini system with Pro-Logic
PAL/NTSC	Sharp DV-560H	●	●	1	O/C		●		
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-S325	●	●	2	O/C	●		£400	
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-S525	●	●	2	O/C	●	●	£450	
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-S725	●	●	2	O/C	●	●	£550	Component video out
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-S7700	●	●	2	O/C	●			Component video out
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-CX850	●	●	2	O/C	●	●		200-disc changer
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-F11		●	0	O/C	●			Compact player
PAL/NTSC	Sony PBD-V30		●	0	O				Portable
PAL/NTSC	Thomson DTH 3300	●	●	2	O/C	●		£330	
PAL/NTSC	Thomson DTH 3600	●	●	2	O/C	●	●	£400	
PAL/NTSC	Toshiba SD-2109	●	●	1	C	●		£350	
PAL/NTSC	Toshiba SD-3109	●	●	1	O/C	●	●	£500	Twin-tray/HDCD compatible
PAL/NTSC	Toshiba SD-9000		●	0	O/C	●	●		Component video out
PAL/NTSC	Yamaha DVD-S795	●	●	2	O/C	●	●	£530	

TVCR COMBIS

Model	Screen size	Teletext	Twin tuner	VideoPlus	PDC	Scart sockets	Front AV sockets	NTSC playback	Guide price	Comments
Aiwa VX-G142	14in			●		0	●	●	£230	
Aiwa VX-G147	14in	●		●	●	0		●	£280	2 front speakers (mono)
Bush BTV14	14in					1				
Bush BTV140T	14in	●				1				
Bush BTV17	14in					1				
Daewoo DVT-1482P	14in			●		●		●		
Daewoo DVT-2082P	20in			●		●		●		
Daewoo DVT-5582P	21in	●	●	●		1	●	●	£350	
Ferguson C3615UT	14in	●		●	●	1	●	●		
Goodmans TVC201T	20in	●	●	●	●	1	●	●	£250	
Grundig TVR3730	14in	●	●	●	●	1		●		
Grundig TVR5150	20in	●	●	●	●	1		●		
Hitachi 1420VT	14in	●		●	●	1		●		
LG KI 14U71X	14in	●				1	●	●	£300	
Philips 14PV320	14in	●	●	●	●	2	●	●	£330	
Philips 14PV340	14in	●		●	●	1	●	●	£330	Alarm clock radio
Philips 20PV220	20in	●	●	●	●	1	●		£380	
Philips 21PV320	21in	●	●	●	●	2	●	●	£430	
Philips 25PV720	25in	●	●	●	●	2	●	●	£600	Dolby Pro-Logic
Samsung TI14C	14in					1	●	●	£250	
Samsung TI14C3T	14in	●				1	●	●	£250	
Samsung TI14C5DF	14in	●	●	●		1	●	●	£300	
Samsung TI20C5DF	20in	●	●	●		1	●	●	£350	
Samsung TI21B5DF	21in	●	●	●		1	●	●	£400	
Samsung TI21B5N	21in	●	●	●		1	●	●	£430	Nicam stereo
Sharp 37-AT2SH	14in	●		●		1	●		£200	
Sony KV-14V5	14in	●		●	●	1	●	●	£380	
Sony KV-14V6	14in	●	●	●	●	1	●	●	£340	
Sony KV-21V6	21in	●	●	●	●	1	●	●	£450	
Tatung TVC 562	14in					1				
Thomson 14CB25UT	14in	●	●	●	●	1	●	●		
Thomson 20CB25UT	20in	●	●	●	●	1	●	●		

20-21IN NICAM TVS

Model	Screen size	Scart	S-video	Front AV Inputs	Audio outputs	Headph socket	Guide price
Aiwa TV-SE211	21in	2		●		●	
Akai TV2034-TN UK	20in	1			●	●	£230
Bush 2028NTX	20in	1			●		
Bush 2068NTX	20in	1			●		
Bush 2071NTX	20in	1			●		
Bush 2167NTX	21in	1					£260
Bush 2171NTX	21in	1					
Bush 2190D (IDTV)	21in	1					£300
Ferguson M5518U	21in	2	●			●	
Grundig ST55-725aFT	21in	2	●	●		●	
Hitachi C2156TN	21in	2	●	●	●	●	£300
JVC AV-21TS2	21in	2	●	●		●	£330
JVC AV-21TS4	21in	2	●	●		●	
Panasonic TX-21MD4	21in	2	●	●	●	●	£300
Panasonic TX-21MK1	21in	2	●	●	●		£300
Panasonic TX-AD2	21in	2	●	●	●	●	£340
Sanyo 21DN3	21in	2		●		●	£330
Sharp 51-DSO2H	21in	2	●			●	£270
Sharp 51-DSO3H	21in	2	●			●	£280
Sharp DSO5H(GY)	21in	2	●			●	£300
Sony KV21T3	21in	1		●		●	
Sony KV21X5	21in	2	●	●	●	●	
Tatung T20 TF70	20in	1					
Thomson 21DK24U	21in	2	●	●		●	
Thorn CT51 4TN	21in	2	●		●	●	£385
Toshiba 2173DB	21in	2	●	●		●	£380

4:3 25IN NICAM TVS

Model	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Headph socket	Guide price
Akai TV2551TN	2	●	●		●	£380
Ferguson M6322U	2	●	●		●	
Goodmans 255NS	2		●		●	£370
Hitachi C2556TN	2	●	●	●	●	£400
JVC AV-25BD3	2	●	●	●	●	
JVC AV-25TS4	2	●	●	●	●	
Mitsubishi C25C7B	2			●	●	£500
Panasonic TX-25MD4	2	●	●	●	●	£400
Panasonic TX-25XD4	2	●	●	●	●	
Philips 25PT4494	2				●	£380
Philips 25PT4523	2	●		●	●	£350
Philips 25PT6322C	2	●	●	●	●	£550
Sanyo 25DN3	2		●		●	
Sharp 59-DSO3H	2	●			●	£360
Sharp 59-DSO5H(Gy)	2	●			●	
Sony KV-25X5	2	●	●	●	●	£400
Tatung T25 NE61	1					
Thomson 25DG24U	2	●	●		●	
Toshiba 2573DB	2	●	●		●	£400

KEY TO REAR-PROJECTION TELEVISIONS

System: TV/video colour system.
Screen Size: Quoted screen size.
Aspect Ratio: 4:3 = standard, 16:9 = widescreen.
Scart/S-Video: These are listed to help with hook-up.
Front AV Inputs: Usually phono audio and video, and sometimes S-Video inputs, typically for easy camcorder or video game connection.
Audio Outputs: For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system.
External Speaker Terminals: Provision for outboard loudspeakers.
RGB: Provision of direct red, green and blue drives to video amplifiers. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 0171-331 1000 for guidance.
100hz scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker.

KEY TO TELEVISIONS

System: All UK TVs use the PAL system. Many also accept NTSC signals from American or Japanese software. If a TV is also compatible with the European Secam system, it is classed as multi-standard. If it has NTSC playback we use the Pal/N symbol.
Screen Size: Quoted screen size. The actual size, measured diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner is usually around 1.5in less.
Scart/S-Video: The total amount of audio and video inputs, listed by type.
Front AV Inputs: Usually phono audio and video, sometimes S-Video inputs, for easy camcorder or video game connection.
Audio Outputs: For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system.
External Speaker Terminals: For direct connection of additional speakers.
RGB: Some TVs will accept RGB signals, usually via a Scart socket, to display computer-generated images.
Test Date: If we've reviewed a TV you're interested in, you can order a copy from our Test Reprints service. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 0171-331 1000 for guidance.
100Hz scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker.
Screen sizes: Manufacturers equivalent in cm are usually 51cm for 21in, 59cm for 25in, 68cm for 28, 70cm for 29in and 78cm for 33in And yes, we know these don't all add up mathematically.

14in PORTABLE TVs

Model	Text	Scart sockets	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Headph socket	Guide price
Aiwa TV-SE141	●	1	●		●	
Akai TV1420-TUK	●	1			●	
Akai TV1420UK		1			●	
Bush 1433		1				£120
Bush 1438		1				
Bush 1439		1				
Bush 1473T	●	1				
Bush 1478T	●	1				
Bush 1479T	●	1				
Bush 1493NTX	●	1				
Bush 1495N		1	●			£170
Daewoo GB-14A5		1	●		●	
Daewoo GB-14A5T	●	1	●		●	
Ferguson M3610U		1	●		●	
Ferguson M3615UT	●	1	●		●	
Grundig P37-080		1			●	£100
Grundig P37-830	●	1			●	£110
Grundig P37-830/12	●	1			●	
Hitachi C1421T	●	1	●		●	
Hitachi C1422T	●	1	●		●	£180
Hitachi C1432T	●	●	●		●	
JVC C-J14EK		1	●		●	
JVC C-JT14EK	●	1	●		●	
Panasonic TC-14S3R		1	●		●	£130
Panasonic TX-14C3TS		1	●		●	£190
Panasonic TX-14S3T		1	●		●	£140
Panasonic TX14S3T	●	1	●		●	£170
Philips 14PT1363	●	1			●	
Philips 14PT1563	●	1			●	£150
Samsung CI33732		1	●	●	●	£170
Sanyo 14M2		1				
Sanyo MT2	●	1				
Sharp 37-EM33H		1			●	£110
Sharp 37-ET35H	●	1			●	£130
Sony KV-14M1		1	●		●	£150
Sony KV-14T1	●	1	●		●	£170
Tatung T14 RF70		1			●	
Tatung T14 TF70	●	1			●	
Thomson 14MG10U		1			●	
Thomson S2014U	●	1	●			
Toshiba 1480RB		1	●		●	£140
Toshiba 1480TB	●	1	●		●	£180
Toshiba 14R01B			●		●	
Toshiba 14T01B	●	1	●		●	

4:3 28in-32in NICAM TVs

Model	Screen size	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Guide price
Akai 2851	28in	2	●	●	●	£400
Akai CT2867	28in	2	●	●		£550
Akai TV2851-TN	28in	2	●	●		
Bush 2870 VPL	28in	1				
Bush 2871NTX	28in	2				£350
Ferguson M7021U	29in	2	●			
Ferguson M7022U	28in	2	●	●		
Grundig M72-410/9REF	29in	3		●	●	
Grundig ST70-270/8	28in	2	●	●		
Grundig ST70-700NIC	28in	2				
Hitachi C2856TN	28in	2	●	●	●	£420
JVC AV-29BD3	29in	2	●	●		£460
JVC AV-29BD3EK	29in	2	●	●		£460
Panasonic TX-28MD4	28in	2	●	●	●	£500
Panasonic TX-28XD3	28in	2	●	●	●	£550
Panasonic TX-29AD2	29in	2	●	●	●	£600
Panasonic TX-29AK1	29in	2	●	●	●	
Philips 28PT4494	28in	2				£449
Philips 28PT4523	28in	2			●	£350
Philips 29PT6773C	29in	2	●	●	●	£1,100
Philips 29PT8413D	29in	3		●	●	£1,400
Sanyo 28DN3	28in	2		●		£430
Sharp 66-ESO3H	28in	2	●			£460
Sharp 66-ESO5H	28in	2	●	●		
Sony KV-29FX20	29in	2	●	●	●	£750
Sony KV-29X5	29in	2	●	●	●	
Thomson 28DG24U	28in	2	●	●	●	
Toshiba 2873DB	28in	2	●	●		£500

4:3 PRO-LOGIC TVs

Model	Screen size	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Guide price
Grundig M72-410/9REF	29in	2	●		●	
Grundig M95-411/9REF	37in	3	●		●	
Grundig ST63 775DPL	25in	2	●	●		£600
Grundig ST70-875DPL	28in	2	●	●		
Grundig ST84-896/FTLOG	33in	2	●		●	
Hitachi 2186TN	21in	2	●	●	●	£280
Hitachi 2586TN	25in	2	●	●	●	£420
JVC AV-25SX4EK	25in	2	●	●	●	
JVC AV-29SX4EK	29in	2	●	●	●	
LG CF-25A64DF	25in	2	●	●	●	£580
Matsui 28 DPL	28in	2	●	●		£500
Panasonic TX-25LD4DP	25in	2	●	●	●	£520
Panasonic TX-28LD4DP	28in	2	●	●	●	£700
Panasonic TX-29AD70DP	29in	3	●	●	●	£650
Panasonic TX-33AK10	33in	3	●	●	●	
Panasonic TX-29AD70	29in	2	●	●	●	£1,100
Philips 29PT6433D	29in	2	●	●	●	£900
Philips 29PT9413D	29in	3	●	●	●	£485
Samsung CW-30A90SD	30in	3	●	●	●	£900
Sharp 59-ESD7H	25in	3	●	●		
Sharp 66-ESD7H	28in	3	●	●		
Thomson 33MS25UD	33in	2	●	●	●	
Toshiba 2987DB	29in	3	●	●	●	£750
Toshiba 3387DB	33in	3	●	●	●	£1,400
Toshiba 3787DB	37in	3	●	●	●	£2,000

WIDESCREEN PRO-LOGIC TVs

Model	Screen size	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Guide price
Akai CT-W3257	32in	2	●	●		£1,250
Grundig 110/1F	42in	3	●		●	
Hitachi C28W35TN	28in	2	●	●	●	£1,300
Hitachi C28W40DTN (IDTV)	28in	2	●	●	●	£1,100
Hitachi C28WD2TNP	28in	2	●	●	●	£650
Hitachi C32W35TN	32in	2	●	●	●	
Hitachi C32W40DTN	32in	2	●	●	●	£1,600
Hitachi C32WD2NPW	32in	2	●	●	●	
Hitachi C32WD2TNPW	32in	2	●	●	●	£1,000
JVC AV-28WR4	28in	2	●	●	●	
JVC AV-28WR4EK	28in	2	●	●	●	
JVC AV-32WFD1EK	32in	3	●	●	●	
JVC AV-32WFP1	32in	3	●	●	●	
JVC AV-32WR4	32in	2	●	●	●	
Loewe Planus 4681Z	32in	2	●	●	●	£1,650
Mitsubishi CT-28BW2BD	28in	2	●	●		£950
Mitsubishi CT-32CW1BD	32in	3	●	●	●	£2,000
Panasonic TX-32D2DP	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,700
Panasonic TX-47PT1	47in	3	●	●	●	£3,400
Panasonic TX-W28D2DP	28in	3	●	●	●	£1,240
Panasonic TX-W28R3DP	28in	3	●	●	●	£850
Panasonic TX-W32D2DP	32in	3	●	●	●	£2,130
Panasonic TX-W36D3DP	36in	3	●	●	●	£2,300
Philips 28PW6332D	28in	2	●	●	●	£1,200
Philips 28PW9623D	28in	3	●	●	●	£930
Philips 28PW9763D	28in	3	●	●	●	£1,500
Philips 29PT9413	29in	3	●	●	●	£900
Philips 32DW6834	32in	2	●	●	●	
Philips 32PW9523D	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,600
Philips 32PW9723D	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,500
Philips 32PW9763/25	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,900
Sanyo 28WP1	28in	2	●	●	●	£1,200
Sanyo 28WP2	28in	2	●	●	●	
Sanyo 32WN2	32in	2	●	●	●	
Sanyo 32WP2	32in	2	●	●	●	
Sharp 66DW-18H	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,300
Sharp 66DW18H	28in	3	●	●		
Sharp 76DW-18H	32in	3	●	●		£1,300
Sharp 76EF20H	32in	3	●	●		£1,800
Sony KV-28DS60(S)	28in	3	●	●	●	£1,500
Sony KV-28FD1	28in	3	●	●	●	£1,600
Sony KV-28WS2	28in	2	●	●	●	£830
Sony KV-32DS60 (IDTV)	32in	3	●	●	●	£2,000
Sony KV-32FD1	32in	3	●	●	●	£2,800
Sony KV-32WS2	32in	2	●	●	●	£1,250
Thomson 28VK26UW	28in	2	●	●	●	
Thomson 32VK26UW	32in	2	●	●	●	
Thomson 32VK66UW	32in	3	●	●	●	
Toshiba 28W8DB	28in	3	●	●	●	£850
Toshiba 32W8DB	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,200

WIDESCREEN NICAM TVs

Model	Screen size	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Guide price
Bush 6690D (IDTV)	28in	1		●		
Bush 7690D (IDTV)	32in	1		●		
Bush WS6667	28in	2	●		●	£480
Bush WS6671	28in	2		●		
Bush WS7667	32in	2	●		●	£900
Bush WS7671	32in	2		●		
Ferguson W7022U	28in	2	●	●		
Goodmans W288NS	28in	2	●	●		£400
Grundig MW70-2690	28in	2		●		
Grundig MW82-2690	32in	2		●		
Hitachi C24W1TN	24in	2	●	●		£550
Hitachi C28W1TN	28in	2	●	●		£600
JVC AV-24WT2	24in	2	●	●	●	£460
JVC AV-28WT4	28in	2	●	●	●	
LG WF-32A14T	32in	2	●	●	●	£1,000
Loewe Credo 7570 ZP	28in	2	●	●	●	£2,000
Panasonic TX-28PK10	28in	2				
Panasonic TX-32PK1	32in	2	●	●	●	
Panasonic TX-W28R3	28in	3	●	●	●	£680
Panasonic TX-W32D2	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,400
Panasonic TX-32PF10	32in	3	●	●	●	£1,400
Philips 32PW9534D	32in	2	●	●	●	
Philips 32PW9544D	32in	2	●	●	●	
Sanyo 28WN2	28in	2	●	●	●	
Schneider 2816	28in	2				£500
Sony KV-24WX1	24in	2	●	●	●	£480
Sony KV-28FC60Z	28in	3	●	●	●	
Sony KV-28FX20	28in	3	●	●	●	
Sony KV-28FX60	28in	3	●	●	●	£1,100
Sony KV-28WF1	28in	2	●	●	●	£700

WIDESCREEN NICAM TVs (CONT)

Model	Screen size	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Guide price
Sony KV-32FC60Z	32in	3	●	●	●	
Sony KV-32FX20	32in	3	●	●	●	
Sony KV-32FX60	32in	3	●	●	●	
Sony KV-32WF1(S)	32in	2	●	●	●	£1,000
Tatung T28440	28in	2	●			£550
Thomson 24WK23U	24in	2	●	●		
Thomson 28VK24U	28in	2	●	●		
Thomson 32VK24U	32in	2	●	●		
Toshiba 28W93B	28in	2	●	●		

REAR-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

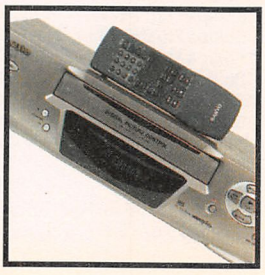
Model	Screen size	Aspect ratio	Scart	S-video	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Guide price
Panasonic TX-47PT1	47in	4:3	3	●	●	●	£3,400
Philips 46P912A	46in	4:3	2	●		●	£2,700
Sony KL-37W2	37in	16:9	3	●	●	●	
Sony KL-50W2	50in	16:9	3	●	●	●	£3,300
Sony KP-41S4U	41in	4:3	3	●	●	●	£1,800
Sony KP-46S4	46in	4:3	3	●	●	●	£2,250
Sony KP-53S4	53in	4:3	3	●	●	●	£2,650
Thomson 46RH40U	46in	4:3	3	●	●	●	
Thomson 52RH40U	52in	4:3	3	●	●	●	
Toshiba 40PW8DB	40in	16:9	3	●	●	●	£3000
Toshiba 48PJ6DB	48in	4:3	3	●	●	●	£3000
Toshiba 55PJ6DB	55in	4:3	3	●	●	●	£3500
Toshiba 56PW8	56in	16:9	3	●	●	●	£4,000

TWIN-SPEED MONO VCRs

Model	Timer	Index search	PDC	Front AV inputs	Scart	Guide price	NTSC playback	Satellite control	Comments
Aiwa HV-GX900	31/8	●			1	£120	●		
Aiwa HV-GX950	31/8	●			2		●		
Akai VS-G280	365/8	●			1	£160	●		Auto LP timer
Akai VS-G295	365/8	●	●		1	£140	●		Auto LP timer
Akai VS-G297	365/8	●	●		2		●		Auto LP timer
Bush VCR807	31/8	●			1	£80	●		
Bush VCR808	31/8	●			2	£90			
Bush VCR817VP	31/8	●			1	£100	●		
Bush VCR818VP	365/8	●			2	£120			
Daewoo K281P	31/8	●			2		●		
Daewoo K283P	31/8	●	●		2		●		
Daewoo K285P	31/8	●	●		2		●		
Daewoo Q256P	31/8	●	●		1	£110	●		
Ferguson FV401LV	365/4	●	●		2	£120	●		
Grundig GV 8000	31/6	●	●		2		●		
Hitachi C1420VT	31/6	●	●		1				
Hitachi VT-M610	31/6	●	●		2	£160			
Hitachi VT-M631	31/6	●	●		2	£170			
Hitachi VT-MX705	31/6	●	●		2	£120			
Hitachi VT-MX730	31/8	●	●	●	2				
JVC HR-J260EK	365/8	●	●		2		●		16:9 rec & playback
JVC HR-J265EK	365/8	●	●		2	£150	●		16:9 rec & playback
JVC HR-J465EK	365/8	●	●		2	£180	●		16:9 rec & playback
Mitsubishi HS-821VB	31/8	●	●		2	£180			
Mitsubishi HS-841VB	31/8	●	●		2	£190			
Panasonic NV-HD440	31/8	●	●	●	2	£200			
Panasonic NV-SD240	31/8	●	●		2	£150			
Philips VR200	31/6	●	●		2	£150			
Philips VR285	31/6	●	●		2	£200			
Samsung SV-120W	31/6	●				£120			AC/DC operation
Samsung SV-220B	31/6	●			1	£120	●		Auto LP timer
Samsung SV-221B	31/6	●			1	£130	●		Auto LP timer
Samsung SV-223B	31/6	●	●		1	£130	●		Auto LP timer
Samsung SV-224GR	31/6	●			1	£130	●		Auto LP timer
Sanyo VHR-279	365/6	●			1	£120	●		
Sanyo VHR-289	365/6	●	●		2	£130	●		Tape Library
Sharp VC-M301	365/8	●			1	£130			
Sharp VC-M311	365/8	●			1	£160			
Sharp VC-M321	365/8	●	●		2	£130	●		
Sharp VC-M331HM	365/8	●	●		2				
Sony SLV-SE20UX	31/8	●	●		1	£170	●		
Sony SLV-SE30UX	31/8	●	●	●	2	£180	●		
Sony SLV-SE45UX	31/8	●	●	●	2	£230	●		
Tatung TVR 934	31/8	●			1				
Tatung TVR 935V	31/8	●	●		1		●		
Toshiba V-229	31/6	●	●		2	£150	●		ONdigital box control

KEY TO VCRs

Timer: The number of programmes (events) the VCR can be programmed to record and how far ahead it can be set (in days) All VCRs listed have the VideoPlus recording system.
Index Search: A recorded index code is used to locate a specific point on the tape.
PDC (Programme Delivery Control): Automatically adjusts the timer if programmes are delayed. Used by BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5 and some ITV companies.
Audio System: Nicam means it is able to decode digital stereo TV sound.
Front AV Inputs: Phono and/or S-Video and audio sockets mounted on the front panel for easy camcorder connection. **Insert Edit:** Allows you to drop new recordings over old without picture break-up at entry and exit points.
Audio dub: Lets you record a new soundtrack while retaining the original picture.
Scart/S-video: We've listed these to help you hook up two recorders for copy/edit work.
Onscreen Graphics: Displays VCR and timer commands onscreen.



TWIN-SPEED NICAM VCRs

Format	Model	Timer	Index search	PDC	Front AV inputs	Insert edit	Audio dub	Scart	Guide price	NTSC playback	Satellite control	Comments
VHS	Aiwa HV-FX5100	31/8	●	●				2	£140	●		
VHS	Aiwa HV-FX7500	31/6	●	●	●		●	2	£200	●		
VHS	Aiwa HV-FX8500	31/6	●	●	●		●	2		●		
VHS	Aiwa HV-MX100	31/6	●		●			1		●		Multi-standard recorder
VHS	Akai VS-G781	365/8	●					2	£230	●		Auto LP timer
VHS	Akai VS-G796	365/8	●	●	●			2	£200	●		Auto LP timer
VHS	Akai VS-G797	365/8	●	●	●			2		●		Auto LP timer/NTSC rec
VHS	Bush VCR870NVP	31/8	●					1	£130	●		
VHS	Bush VCR880NVP	365/8	●					2	£150			
VHS	Daewoo Q857P	31/8	●	●	●			2	£150	●		
VHS	Ferguson FV405HV	365/8	●	●				2	£150	●		
VHS	Ferguson FV407HV	365/8	●	●	●			2		●		
VHS	Goodmans VN9500	31/8	●	●	●			2	£130			
VHS	Grundig GV-8400	31/6	●	●				2	£150	●		
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX750	365/8	●	●				2	£260			
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX760	365/8	●	●	●			2	£240			
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX770	365/8	●	●	●			2	£340	●		Movietext
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX850	365/8	●	●				2	£180			
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX860	365/8	●	●	●			2	£230			Movietext
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX880	365/8	●	●	●			2	£300	●		Movietext/ Commercial Advance
VHS	JVC HR-DD855EK	365/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£290	●		16:9 rec & playback
VHS	JVC HR-DD865EK	365/8	●	●	●	●	●	2		●		16:9 rec & playback
VHS	JVC HR-J660EK	365/8	●	●	●			2		●		16:9 rec & playback
VHS	JVC HR-J665EK	365/8	●	●	●			2	£230	●		16:9 rec & playback
S-VHS	JVC HR-S6600	365/8	●	●				2	£300	●		16:9 rec & playback
S-VHS	JVC HR-S7500	365/8	●	●	●			2	£300	●		16:9 rec & playback
S-VHS	JVC HR-S7600EK	365/8	●	●	●			2		●		16:9 rec & playback
S-VHS	JVC HR-S8600EK	365/8	●	●	●	●	●	2		●		16:9 rec & playback
S-VHS	JVC HR-S9500	365/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£500	●		16:9 rec & playback
S-VHS	JVC HR-S9600EK	365/8	●	●	●	●	●	2		●		16:9 rec & playback
VHS	Mitsubishi HS-851VB	31/8	●	●				2	£280			
VHS	Mitsubishi HS-861VB	31/8	●	●		●	●	2	£330			
VHS	Mitsubishi HS-871VB	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£380			
VHS	Panasonic NV-HD640	365/8	●	●				2	£240	●		
VHS	Panasonic NV-HD645	31/8	●	●	●		●	2	£280	●		
VHS	Panasonic NV-HD675	31/8	●	●	●		●	2	£320	●	●	Tape Library
VHS	Panasonic NV-HD685	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£380	●	●	Tape Library
S-VHS	Panasonic NV-HS850		●	●	●	●	●	2		●	●	
S-VHS	Panasonic NV-HS950	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£800	●		
DVC	Panny NV-DV10000	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£2,300			
S-VHS	Philips VR1000								£350			
VHS	Philips VR600	31/6	●					2	£200	●		
VHS	Philips VR700								£300			
VHS	Philips VR860	31/6	●	●	●		●	2	£350	●		Tape Manager
VHS	Philips VR900								£330			
VHS	Samsung SV-4000W	31/6	●		●		●	1	£1,000	●		Multi-standard recorder
VHS	Samsung SV-620B	31/6	●					2	£140	●		Child door lock
VHS	Samsung SV-623B	31/6	●					2	£170	●		Child door lock
VHS	Samsung SV-627B	31/6	●	●				2	£200	●		
VHS	Sanyo VHR778	365/6	●	●				2	£200			
VHS	Sanyo VHR779	365/6						2	£170			Auto LP timer/Tape Library
VHS	Sanyo VHR798	365/6	●	●	●		●	2	£260			
VHS	Sanyo VHR899	365/6	●	●	●			2	£230	●		Auto LP timer/Tape Library
VHS	Sharp VC-M331HM	365/8	●	●				2		●	●	
VHS	Sharp VC-MH711HM	365/8	●					2	£160			
VHS	Sharp VC-MH721HM	365/8	●	●	●			2	£220			
VHS	Sharp VC-MH731HM	365/8	●	●	●		●	2		●	●	16:9 mode
VHS	Sharp VC-MH73HM	365/8	●	●	●			2	£250	●	●	
VHS	Sony SLV-E1000UX	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£575	●		
VHS	Sony SLV-E850UX	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2	£300	●		
VHS	Sony SLV-F900UX	31/8	●	●	●			2	£450	●		SmartFile tape memory
VHS	Sony SLV-F990UX	31/8	●	●	●		●	2	£400	●	●	SmartFile tape memory
VHS	Sony SLV-SE70UX	31/8	●	●	●			2	£240	●		
VHS	Sony SLV-SE80UX	31/8	●	●	●			2	£350	●		Smart Dial timer
VHS	Sony SLV-SE930UX	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2		●		
VHS/Hi8	Sony SLV-T2000UX	31/8	●	●	●		●	2	£800			
VHS	Tatung TVR 754N	31/8	●	●				1		●		
VHS	Thomson VPH 6850	365/8	●	●	●					●	●	NTSC rec/16:9 mode/auto LP timer
VHS	Thomson VPH 6950	365/8	●	●	●					●		Auto LP timer
VHS	Toshiba V709	31/6	●	●				2	£200	●		
VHS	Toshiba V729	31/6	●	●				2	£250	●		ONdigital box control
VHS	Toshiba V829	31/6	●	●	●	●	●	2	£280	●		ONdigital box control
VHS	Toshiba V859	31/6	●	●	●	●	●	2	£330	●		ONdigital box control

TESTED products

This section of the *Buyers' Guide* lists the products that we've tested over the last few years which we think are worthy of your consideration. As well as taking guidance from our summarised comments and ratings you should think about ordering a test report from our archives (see *Reprints*, which also lists all the products tested over the past two years, plus many more).

WIDESCREEN SURROUND SOUND TELEVISIONS

System	Model	Screen size	Scart	Front AV inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. term	RGB	100Hz	S-video	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Pal/N	**Akai CT-W3257**	**32in**	**2**	●		●	●		●	**Excellent value. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£1,250**	**9**
Pal/N	Grundig Arganto	32in	2	●	●	●	●		●	Great pic but average connectivity	Mar 00	£1,200	8
Pal/N	**Hitachi C24W511TN**	**24in**	**2**	●	●	●	●		●	**Taste of luxury for cramped l-rooms. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£550**	**9**
Pal/N	**Hitachi C43WP910TN**	**43in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Awe-inspiring sound & picture. BB**	**Apr 00**	**£3,000**	**9**
Multi	**Mitsubishi CT-28BW2BD**	**28in**	**2**	●		●			●	**No real weaknesses. BB**	**Jun 97**	**£950**	**9**
Pal/N	**Loewe Planus 4681Z**	**32in**	**2**	●	●		●	●	●	**Picture quality/design ooze class. BB**	**Oct 98**	**£1,650**	**9**
Pal/N	**Panasonic TX-32D2DP**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Excellent 100Hz set. BB**	**May 97**	**£1,700**	**9**
Pal/N	**Panasonic TX-W36D3DP**	**36in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Biggest CRT widescreen on market. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£2,800**	**9**
Pal/N	**Panasonic TX-47PT1**	**47in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Stunning picture quality. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£3,400**	**9**
Pal/N	**Philips 32PW9763/25**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Wireless surrounds. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£1,900**	**9**
Pal/N	Philips 28PW9615/05	28in	4		●	●	●	●	●	Wireless(ish) DD set. Strong pic/sound	Dec 98	£1,900	9
Pal/N	**Samsung WS32W6**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Breathtaking in every dept. BB**	**Nov 99**	**£1,100**	**9**
Multi	**Sony KV-32FD1**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**First true flatscreen. BB**	**Feb 98**	**£2,800**	**9**
Multi	**Sony KV-32DS60**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Superb set with built-in dig tuner. BB**	**Sep 99**	**£2,000**	**9**
Multi	**Sony KV-32FX20**	**32in**	**2**	●	●	●	●		●	**Premium flatscreen performer. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£1,200**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 32MW7DB**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Flagship Dolby Digital TV. BB**	**Feb 98**	**£1,600**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 2987DB**	**29in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●		**Good all-rounder for the price. BB**	**Nov 98**	**£850**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 32W8DB**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Hugely impressive visuals. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£1,200**	**9**
Pal/N	**Toshiba 32WD98B**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Home cinema heaven. BB DD TV**	**Dec 99**	**£1,300**	**10**
Pal/N	**Toshiba 32ZD98B**	**32in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Superb images, DD sound. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£1,700**	**9**

WIDESCREEN NICAM TELEVISIONS

System	Model	Screen size	Scart	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	100Hz	S-vid	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Pal/N	**Bush 6690D**	**28in**	**2**		●	●	●			**Remarkable price for w/s IDTV. BB**	**Mar 00**	**£500**	**9**
Pal/N	**Goodmans W288NS**	**28in**	**2**	●			●		●	**Great picture at an amazing price. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£400**	**9**
PAL/N	Goodmans W32INS	32in	2	●	●	●	●	●	●	Well featured, good looker	Aug 97	£2,000	8
Multi	Loewe Credo 7570 ZP	28in	2	●	●	●	●	●	●	Well featured, good looker	Aug 97	£2,000	8
Pal/N	**LG WF-32A14T**	**32in**	**2**	●	●		●		●	**Good audio and excellent value. BB**	**May 98**	**£1,000**	**9**
Pal/N	**Panny TX-32PF10**	**32in**	**3**	●	●		●		●	**Flat-screen stunner. Near-perfect set. BB**	**Sep 99**	**£1,400**	**9**
Pal/N	**Philips 28PW6322**	**28in**	**2**	●	●		●		●	**Great price, great picture. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£700**	**9**
PaL/N	**Philips 32PW6322**	**32in**	**2**	●	●		●		●	**Good picture quality excellent value. BB**	**May 98**	**£1,000**	**9**
PaL/N	**Schneider 2816**	**28in**	**2**				●			**Marvellous picture quality. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£500**	**9**
PaL/N	**Sony KV-28FX60**	**28in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Excellent picture, good price. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£1,100**	**9**

4:3 SURROUND SOUND TELEVISIONS

System	Model	Screen size	Scart	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	100Hz	S-video	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Pal/N	Ferguson M8473NJD	33in	2			●	●		●	Great picture, good price, bad manual	Feb 98	£1,000	8
Pal/N	**Goodmans 285DPL**	**28in**	**2**			●	●		●	**Great price and a decent performance. BB**	**Dec 97**	**£600**	**9**
Pal/N	Grundig ST63 775DPL	25in	2	●		●	●		●	Good but unspectacular	Sep 98	£600	7
Pal/N	Hitachi 2886TN	28in	2	●	●		●		●	Indifferent AV performance	Jan 98	£700	7
Pal/N	JVC AV-25SX2EK	25in	2	●	●		●		●	Excellent picture and pseudo surround	Nov 97	£700	8
Multi	JVC AV-21SX1EK	21in	2		●		●		●	3D-Phonic sound and excellent picture	Feb 97	£550	8
Multi	LG CF-25A64DF	25in	2	●	●		●		●	Reasonable entry level model	Sep 98	£580	7
Pal	Matsui 28 DPL	28in	2	●		●			●	Excellent value for money	Jun 98	£500	8
Multi	Mitsubishi CT-21AV1BD	21in	2			●	●			Above average picture and good sound	Feb 97	£550	7
Multi	**Mitsubishi CT-29BV1**	**29in**	**2**	●		●	●		●	**Superb sound and price. BB**	**Apr 97**	**£900**	**9**
Pal/N	**PanasonicTX-25AD2DP**	**25in**	**2**	●	●	●	●		●	**Excellent sound and features. BB**	**Nov 97**	**£700**	**9**
Pal/N	**PanasonicTX-29AD70**	**29in**	**2**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**Excellent big-screen surround sound. BB**	**April 98**	**£1,100**	**9**
Multi	**Panasonic TX-21AD2DP**	**21in**	**2**	●	●		●		●	**Excellent surround set. BB**	**Feb 97**	**£500**	**9**
Multi	**Philips 29PT9113C**	**29in**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	●	**100Hz-scanning TV with PIP. BB**	**Dec 97**	**£950**	**9**
Multi	Samsung CW-30A90SD	30in	3	●	●	●	●	●	●	Restores extra inch of picture from overscanning	Aug 98	£900	8
Pal/N	Sanyo 25XP1	25in	2	●	●	●	●		●	Sanyo's debut Pro-Logic set	Apr 97	£650	7
Pal	**Sharp 59CS-D8H**	**25in**	**2**	●	●	●			●	**Superb sound. BB**	**Sep 97**	**£700**	**9**
Pal/N	**Sony KV-25F3**	**25in**	**2**	●	●	●	●		●	**Fully featured. BB**	**Nov 97**	**£700**	**9**
Pal/N	Sony KV-29F3U	29in	2	●	●	●	●		●	Good all rounder	Sep 97	£900	8
Pal/N	**Toshiba 3787DB**	**37in**	**3**	●	●	●	●		●	**Great Dolby Digital TV. BB**	**Sep 98**	**£2,000**	**9**
Pal/N	**Toshiba 2557DB**	**25in**	**3**	●	●	●	●		●	**Good all round set. BB**	**Sep 98**	**£600**	**9**
Pal/N	Toshiba 2557	25in	2	●	●	●	●		●	Recommended surround sound TV	Aug 96	£750	8
Pal/N	Toshiba 2877DB	28in	3	●	●	●	●		●	Decent picture, good features	Dec 97	£850	8
Pal/N	Toshiba 3377DB	33in	3	●	●	●	●		●	Decent all rounder	Oct 97	£1,500	8

4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 33in AND OVER

System	Model	Screen size	Scart	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	100Hz	S-vid	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
PAL	Bush 3463NTX	34in	1				●			Good value for a large screen	Jun 98	£800	7
Pal/N	**Grundig M95-410/0REF**	**37in**	**3**	●	●		●	●	●	**Impressive big-screen set. BB**	**Feb 98**	**£2,300**	**9**
Pal/N	**Thomson 37MG73J**	**37in**	**2**	●	●	●	●		●	**Marvellous picture at an great price. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£1,800**	**9**

4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 28in-32in

System	Model	Screen size	Scart/ S-video	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	S-video	100Hz	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Pal	Akai CT2867	28in	2	●			●	●		Good value, fair performer	Jan 98	£550	8
Multi	**Akai 2851**	**28in**	**2**	●	●		●	●		**Extremely good value set. BB**	**Nov 98**	**£400**	**9**
Pal/N	Daewoo GB2898ST	28in	2	●			●	●		Excellent picture, very good value	Feb 98	£400	9
Multi	Ferguson T68NB	28in	2				●	●		Fair performer, stylish but poor connectivity.	May 97	£600	7
Pal/N	LG CF28A60D	28in	2	●	●	●	●	●		User friendly, strong all round	April 98	£680	8
Multi	**Mitsubishi C28C7B**	**28in**	**2**		●		●	●		**No real weaknesses. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£570**	**9**
Multi	**Panasonic TX-28LD1**	**28in**	**2**	●			●	●		**Best Nicam TV of the Year. BB**	**Dec 96**	**£630**	**9**
Pal/N	Panasonic TX-28MD3	28in	2	●	●		●	●		Good picture, easy to use	Jan 98	£580	8
Pal	**Philips 29PT6773C**	**29in**	**2**	●	●		●	●		**Excellent vision and sound. BB**	**Feb 98**	**£1,100**	**9**
Pal	Sharp 66CS03H	28in	2	●						Solid, but no front AV inputs	May 97	£550	8
Pal	Sharp 66DS-05H	28in	2	●			●	●		Fair price and picture	April 98	£580	7
Pal/N	**Sony KV-29X1**	**29in**	**2**	●			●	●		**Great picture, easy to use. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£600**	**9**
Pal/N	Sony KV-29FX11	29in	2	●	●		●	●		Sony's first 4:3 flatscreen TV	Jul 98	£800	8
Pal/N	Sony KV-29K5U	29in	2	●	●		●	●		Decent performance, but limited features	Aug 98	£600	8

4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 25in

System	Model	Screen size	Scart/ S-video	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	S-video	100Hz	Comment	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Pal/N	**Goodmans 255NS**	**25in**	**2**	●			●	●		**Another Goodmans bargain. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£370**	**9**
Multi	Mitsubishi C25C7B	25in	2		●		●	●		Audio lacks clout	Jan 98	£500	8
Multi	**Mitsubishi CT-25AV1B**	**25in**	**2**	●			●	●		**Excellent sound system/good value. BB**	**Jul 97**	**£470**	**9**
Pal/N	**Panasonic TX-25MD3**	**25in**	**2**	●			●	●		**Good pictures, plenty of features. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£480**	**9**
Pal/N	Panasonic TX-25MD4	25in	2	●			●	●		Easy to use, good picture, weak sound	Nov 98	£450	8
Pal/N	Sharp 59CS-03	25in	2				●	●		Uninspiring effort	Jan 98	£480	7
Pal/N	Sharp 59CS-05H	25in	2	●	●		●			Features Sharp's SRS sound system	Apr 97	£530	7
Pal/N	Sony KV-25K5	25in	2	●	●		●	●		Decent picture, sound and features less so	Nov 98	£470	8
Pal/N	Thomson 25DT63H	25in	2	●				●		Decent, if unspectacular, performer	Jul 97	£450	7
Pal/N	Toshiba 2563DB	25in	2	●			●	●		Excellent picture performance	Jul 97	£550	8

4:3 NICAM TELEVISIONS 20in-21in

System	Model	Screen size	Scart	Front A/V Inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	S-video	100Hz	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Pal/N	**Goodmans 206NS**	**20in**	**2**	●			●	●		**Excellent value, fair performer. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£150**	**9**
Pal	Grundig ST55-725	21in	1	●			●	●	●	Good value, fair performer	May 97	£320	8
Pal	Matsui 21V1N	21in	1	●					●	Ugly duckling with a beautiful price	Nov 97	£260	8
Pal/N	**Panasonic TX-21MD3**	**21in**	**2**	●	●				●	**A tad pricey. but excellent all round. BB**	**Nov 97**	**£400**	**9**
Pal/N	**Panasonic TX-21MK1**	**21in**	**2**	●	●		●	●		**Lovingly crafted, dazzlingly featured TV. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£300**	**9**
Pal/N	**Samsung CI-533CN**	**21in**	**2**	●						**Improbably cheap, excellent picture. BB**	**Apr 00**	**£200**	**9**
Pal	Sharp 51CS-03H	21in	2							Superb soundstage at a good price	May 97	£350	8

14in PORTABLE TVs

Model	Scart sockets	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Headphone socket	RGB	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Bush 1496MTV	●				●	Revolutionary e-mail TV. The future starts here.	Apr 00	£200	8
Hitachi 1422T	●	1		●	●	**Practical and easy to use. BB**	**Mar 99**	**£180**	**9**
Panasonic TX-14C3TS	●	1		●	●	**Highly competent portable. BB**	**Mar 99**	**£190**	**9**
Panasonic TX-14S3T	●	1		●		**All-round, top-notch performer. BB**	**Sep 99**	**£140**	**9**
Samsung CI33732	●	1	●	●	●	**Best Portable of the Year. BB**	**Jan 97**	**£170**	**10**
Sony KV14T1U	●	1	●	●	●	**With swivel stand. Also in white. BB**	**Jan 97**	**£250**	**9**
Toshiba 1450	●	1	●	●	●	**Solid set with excellent sound. BB**	**Jan 97**	**£180**	**9**

KEY TO TELEVISIONS

System: All UK TVs use the PAL system. Many also accept NTSC signals from American or Japanese software. If a TV is also compatible with the European Secam system, it is classed as multi-standard. If it has NTSC playback we use the Pal/N symbol. **Screen Size:** Quoted screen size. The actual size, measured diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner is usually around 1.5in less. **Scart/ S-video:** The total amount of audio and video inputs, listed by type. **Front AV Inputs:** Usually phono audio and video, sometimes S-Video, inputs, for easy camcorder or video game connection. **Audio Outputs:** For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system. **External Speaker Terminals:** For direct connection of additional speakers. **RGB:** Some TVs will accept RGB signals, usually via a Scart socket, to display computer-generated images. **Test Date:** If we've reviewed a TV you're interested in, you can order a copy from our Test Reprints service. **100Hz** scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker.

Screen sizes: Manufacturers equivalent in cm are usually 51cm for 21in, 59cm for 25in, 68cm for 28, 70cm for 29in and 78cm for 33in. And yes, we know these don't all add up mathematically. **Rating:** Based on full tests.

REAR-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

System	Model	Screen size	Aspect ratio	Scart	Front A/V inputs	Audio outputs	Ext. Speak. terminals	RGB	S-video	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Multi	**Sony KP-41S4U**	**41in**	**4:3**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**High-quality set. BB**	**Sep 98**	**£1,800**	**9**
Multi	**Sony KP-41S3U**	**41in**	**4:3**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**Best Superscreen TV of the year. BB**	**Nov 96**	**£2,300**	**10**
Multi	**Thomson RP52**	**52in**	**4:3**	**2**		●	●	●	●	**Big-screen giant. BB**	**Aug 96**	**£3,500**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 48PJ6DB**	**48in**	**4:3**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**Stunning. BB**	**Aug 97**	**£3,000**	**10**
Multi	**Toshiba 55PJ6DB**	**55in**	**4:3**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**Flagship rear-projection set. BB**	**Apr 97**	**£3,500**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 56PW8**	**56in**	**16:9**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**Epic AV performer. BB**	**May 99**	**£4,000**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 43PJ93**	**43in**	**4:3**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**Superb performer. BB**	**Nov 99**	**£1,800**	**9**
Multi	**Toshiba 50PJ98B**	**50in**	**4:3**	**3**	●	●	●	●	●	**Breathtaking visuals. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£2,500**	**9**

TESTED products

KEY TO REAR-PROJECTION TELEVISIONS

System: TV/video colour system. **Screen Size:** Quoted screen size. **Aspect Ratio:** 4:3 = standard, 16:9 = widescreen. **Scart/S-video:** These are listed to help with hook-up. **Front AV Inputs:** Usually phono audio and video, and sometimes S-video, inputs, typically for easy camcorder or video game connection. **Audio Outputs:** For connecting the TV to a hi-fi or AV system. **External Speaker Terminals:** Provision for outboard loudspeakers. **RGB:** Provision of direct red, green and blue drives to video amplifiers. **100Hz** scanning: Picture is refreshed at twice the normal rate to reduce flicker. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

FRONT-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

Type	Model	Aspect ratio	BNC/Scart/ S-video	Audio outputs	Var. focus	Keystone adjust.	Rear	Dimensions	Wght (kg)	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
CRT	**Barco 508**	**3.58/4:43**	**3/0/1**	●	●	●		**655x278x630**	**32**	**Awesome picture. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£4,112**	**9**
CRT	**Philips ProScreen 4600**	**4:3**	**0/0/1**	●	●	●		**330x165x330**	**8**	**Easy to use and carry. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£5,860**	**9**
CRT	**RCF LS4001WS**	**1.85:1/16:9**	**3/0/1**		●	●		**565x250x715**	**35**	**Widescreen upgrade. BB**	**May 96**	**£4,995**	**9**
LCD	**Sanyo PLC-400**	**4:3**	**1/0/1**	●	●	●		**430x185x385**	**10.5**	**Great projector. BB**	**Sep 96**	**£2,920**	**9**
CRT	Seleco SVP350	4:3	1/1/1	●	●			620x290x700	2.5	Tiny unit, great performance	Feb 00	£3,700	8
LCD	**Sharp XV-C1E**	**4:3**	**5/0/1**			●		**210x130x277**	**3.4**	**Great value. BB**	**Aug 97**	**£1,000**	**10**
LCD	**Sharp XV-ZW60E**	**4:3/16:9**	**5/0/2**	●				**359x195x528**	**14.8**	**Great value/playback. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£3,500**	**9**
LCD	**Sharp XV-380H**	**4:3/21:9**	**0/0/1**	●	●	●		**500x447x201**	**12.1**	**Top-notch projector. BB**	**Mar 97**	**£3,871**	**9**
LCD	**Sony VPL-900E**	**4:3/16:9**	**0/0/1**	●	●			**333x120x291**	**5.9**	**Outstanding picture. BB**	**Jun 99**	**£4,500**	**9**

KEY TO FRONT-PROJECTION SYSTEMS

Type: TV/Video colour system. **Aspect Ratio:** 4:3 = standard, 16:9 = widescreen. **Total Inputs/Audio Outputs:** These are listed to help with hook-up. **External Speaker Terminals:** Provision for out-board loudspeakers. **User Convergence Adjustments (UCA):** Provision of user-controls for tube convergence. **Variable Focus:** User focus adjustment. **Keystone Adjustment:** Provision for vertical picture shift. **Rear Projection:** Reverse left/right facility for projection behind screen. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 020 7331 1000 for guidance. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

TVCR COMBIS

Model	Text	Twin tuner	Video Plus	PDC	Scart sockets	Front A/V socket	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Aiwa VX-T1480K	●		●	●		●	Well featured, a fair performer	Nov 97	£400	8
Bush BTV140T	●				1		Fair value teletext model, indifferent performance	Jul 97	£350	6
Daewoo DVT-1482P			●		1	●	Excellent value, good picture	Mar 98	£290	8
Daewoo DVT-2082P			●		1	●	Strong on picture, indifferent sound	April 98	£380	8
Hitachi C1420VT	●		●	●	1		Good picture, few weaknesses	Mar 98	£360	8
LG KI-14V38					**1**		**Excellent value, great AV performance. BB**	**Jul 97**	**£330**	**9**
Philips 14PV274	●	●	●	●	**1**	●	**Twin-tuner version of the 14PV163. BB**	**Sep 97**	**£430**	**9**
Philips 14PV284	●	●	●	●	**1**	●	**Excellent picture and features. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£400**	**9**
Sony KV-14V5	●		●		**1**	●	**Superb picture, good features. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£380**	**9**
Sony KV-14V6	●	●	●	●	**1**	●	**Strong on sound, indifferent picture. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£400**	**9**

NICAM VCRs

Format	Model	Timer	Index search	PDC	Front AV inputs	Insert edit	Audio dub	Scart	S-video	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
VHS	**Akai VS-G2DPL**	**365/8**	●	●	●			**2**		**Akai's second Pro-Logic VCR. BB**	**Jun 97**	**£450**	**9**
VHS	**Akai VS-G875**	**365/8**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**		**Good price and edit features. BB**	**Jul 98**	**£350**	**9**
VHS	**Akai VS-G878**	**365/8**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**		**Fantastic price and feature line up. BB**	**April 98**	**£450**	**9**
VHS	**Aiwa HV-FX5100**	**31/8**	●	●				**2**		**Competent performer at a superb price. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£140**	**9**
VHS	**Bush VCR860NVP**	**31/8**	●				●	**1**		**Great value, includes audio inputs/outputs. BB**	**May 98**	**£240**	**9**
VHS	**Ferguson FV305 HV**	**N/A**		●	●			**2**		**Good picture and audio. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£200**	**9**
VHS	**Goodmans VN8000**	**31/6**	●	●				**2**		**Superb value. BB**	**Oct 97**	**£230**	**9**
VHS	**Goodmans VN9500**	**31/8**	●	●	●			**2**		**Great performer at amazing price. BB**	**Sept 99**	**£150**	**9**
VHS	**Hitachi VT-FX770**	**N/A**	●	●	●			**2**		**Effective tape navigation system. BB**	**Aug 98**	**£340**	**9**
VHS	Hitachi VT-FX860	N/A	●	●	●			2		Competent & affordable Nicam deck	Feb 00	£210	8
VHS	**Hitachi VT-FX880**	**N/A**	●	●	●			**2**		**First VCR to skip past ads. BB**	**Aug 99**	**£320**	**9**
S-VHS	**JVC HR-S7500**	**N/A**	●	●	●			**2**	●	**First affordable S-VHS deck. BB**	**Oct 98**	**£350**	**9**
VHS	**JVC HR-J665EK**	**N/A**	●	●	●			**2**		**Good value, excellent AV quality. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£230**	**9**
S-VHS	**JVC HR-S6600**	**N/A**	●	●				**2**		**S-VHS for price of VHS. Excellent package. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£300**	**9**
S-VHS/DV	**JVC HR-DVS1**	**N/A**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**	●	**Revolutionary S-VHS/DV deck. Outstanding. BB**	**Nov 99**	**£1,300**	**9**
D-VHS	**JVC HM-DR10000**	**365/8**		●	●	●		**2**	●	**First-ever D-VHS/S-VHS deck. Superb quality. BB**	**Mar 00**	**£1,300**	**10**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD620**	**31/8**	●	●				**2**		**Excellent picture and sound quality. BB**	**Jun 97**	**£380**	**9**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD625**	**31/8**	●	●	●			**2**		**Excellent mid-range Nicam. BB**	**Aug 97**	**£400**	**9**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD680**	**31/8**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**		**Deck with tape library system. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£450**	**9**
DVC	**Panny NV-DV10000**	**31/8**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**	●	**High-end DV mastering deck. BB**	**Mar 99**	**£2,300**	**9**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD640**	**365/8**	●	●				**2**		**Great features & good AV quality. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£270**	**9**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD675**	**31/8**	●	●	●		●	**2**		**Magnificent deck with dazzling audio. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£320**	**9**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD685**	**31/8**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**		**Top-notch, flexible VCR. BB**	**Nov 99**	**£330**	**9**
S-VHS	**Panasonic NV-HD850**	**31/8**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**	●	**Excellent S-VHS deck at decent price. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£400**	**9**
VHS	**Philips VR665**	**365/8**	●	●				**2**		**Competent mid-range Nicam deck. BB**	**Feb 97**	**£350**	**9**
VHS	**Philips VR860**	**31/6**	●	●	●		●	**2**		**Top-notch performer, unusual features. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£350**	**9**
S-VHS	**Philips VR969**	**31/6**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**	●	**Good edit facilities, weak LP picture. BB**	**Mar 98**	**£800**	**9**
S-VHS	**Philips VR1000**	**365/8**	●	●	●		●	**2**	●	**Excellent AV performance for great price. BB**	**Apr 00**	**£320**	**9**
VHS	**Samsung SV-4000W**	**31/6**	●		●		●	**1**		**Worldwide standards converting VCR. BB**	**Sep 98**	**£1,000**	**9**
VHS	Samsung SV-605B	31/6	●	●			●	2		Fair price, fair performer	Feb 98	£280	8
VHS	Samsung SV-627B	N/A	●	●	●		●	2		Great looks, brilliant price	Jan 00	£200	8
VHS	Sanyo VHR-798	365/6	●	●	●			2		With satellite control and 3D surround sound	Sep 98	£280	8
VHS	**Sanyo VHR-777**	**365/6**	●	●				**2**		**Well specified deck, excellent value. BB**	**Aug 97**	**£300**	**9**
VHS	**Sharp VC-MH68HM**	**365/8**	●	●				**2**		**Excellent value. BB**	**Oct 97**	**£280**	**9**
VHS	**Sony SLV-F990**	**31/8**	●	●	●		●	**2**		**Flagship, well-specified machine. BB**	**May 99**	**£400**	**9**
VHS	Sony SLV-F900	31/8	●	●	●			2		Easy to use, decent performance, features Smartfile	Nov 98	£450	8

NICAM VCRs (CONTINUED)

Format	Model	Timer	Index search	PDC	Front AV inputs	Insert edit	Audio dub	Scart	S-video	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
VHS	**Sony SLV-SF99**	**N/A**	●	●	●		●	**2**		**A state-of-the-art triumph. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£380**	**9**
DV	**Sony DHR-1000**	**31/8**		●	●	●	●	**2**	●	**Revolutionary digital deck, outstanding pics. BB**	**Sep 96**	**£3,300**	**9**
VHS	**Sony SLV-SE80UX**	**31/8**	●	●	●		●	**2**		**Feature-packed deck, exudes quality. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£280**	**9**
VHS	Thomson VPH6697	31/8	●	●	●	●	●	2		Unconventional but effective, feature-packed deck	Jan 97	£500	8
VHS	**Thomson VPH6790**	**31/8**	●	●	●	●		**2**		**Easy to use, great to listen to. BB**	**Oct 97**	**£500**	**9**
VHS	**Thomson VPH6990**	**31/8**	●	●	●	●		**2**		**Great features and ease of use. BB**	**Feb 99**	**£370**	**9**
VHS	**Toshiba V858B**	**365/6**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**		**Good picture and sound, satellite control. BB**	**Nov 98**	**£400**	**9**
VHS	**Toshiba V-727B**	**31/6**	●	●	●		●	**2**		**Bundles of features. BB**	**Aug 97**	**£360**	**9**
VHS	**Toshiba V859B**	**31/6**	●	●	●	●	●	**2**		**Great audio/satellite control. BB**	**Aug 99**	**£330**	**9**
VHS	Toshiba V-857B	31/6	●	●	●	●	●	2		Packed with features. Fair performer	Oct 97	£460	8

MONO VCRs

Format	Model	Timer	Index search	PDC	Front AV inputs	Insert edit	Audio dub	Scart	S-video	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
VHS	**Akai VS-G270**	**365/8**	●	●				**2**		**Very good AV performance. BB**	**Feb 98**	**£200**	**9**
VHS	Aiwa HV-GX900	31/8	●					1		Good 'workhorse' VCR for day-to-day use	Dec 99	£130	8
VHS	**Hitachi VT-M6331**	**31/6**	●	●				**2**		**Solid machine for the money. BB**	**Mar 99**	**£170**	**9**
VHS	**Mitsubishi HS-740**	**31/8**	●	●				**2**		**No weaknesses, a deserving BB**	**Dec 97**	**£230**	**9**
VHS	Mitsubishi HS-721	31/8	●	●				2		Two head version of HS-740	Feb 98	£200	8
VHS	**Panasonic NV-SD220**	**31/8**	●	●				**2**		**Strong all round Best Buy**	**Feb 98**	**£250**	**9**
VHS	**Panasonic NV-SD240**	**31/8**	●	●				**2**		**User-friendly and feature-laden. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£190**	**9**
VHS	**Sony SLV-E220**	**365/6**						**1**		**Low on features, but great performer. BB**	**Dec 97**	**£230**	**9**
VHS	**Toshiba V-228B**	**31/6**		●				**2**		**Quality deck at low price. BB**	**Jul 98**	**£230**	**9**

KEY TO VCRs

Timer: The number of programmes (events) the VCR can be programmed to record and how far ahead it can be set (in days) All VCRs listed have the VideoPlus recording system.
Index Search: A recorded index code is used to locate a specific point on the tape.
PDC (Programme Delivery Control): Automatically adjusts the timer if programmes are delayed. Used by BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5 and some ITV companies. **Audio System:** Nicam means it is able to decode digital stereo TV sound.
Front AV Inputs: Phono and/or S-video and audio sockets mounted on the front panel for easy camcorder connection. **Insert Edit:** Allows you to drop new recordings over old without picture break-up at entry/exit points.
Audio Dub: Lets you record a new soundtrack while retaining the original picture.
Scart/ S-video: We've listed these to help you hook up two recorders for copy/edit work.
Onscreen Graphics: Displays VCR and timer commands on screen.
Test Date: If we've reviewed a machine you're interested in, you can order a past copy from our Test Reprints service.
Rating: Based on full tests.

Hi8 CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range (mm)	Image stabiliser	Exposure control	Focus control	External mic	Audio system	Weight (kg)	Colour viewfinder	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Canon UC-X10Hi	4-80/22x	●	Auto	●	●	Stereo	1.07		Good all rounder	Oct 97	£700	8
Canon UC-V20Hi	3.9-85.8/22x	●	A/M	●	●	Stereo	1.1		Minor omissions but great pic/sound	Apr 00	£600	8
Samsung VP-L95	3.9-62.4/16x	●	Auto	●	●	Stereo	1.29		Superb value budget Hi8	May 98	£750	8
Sony CCD-TR1100	**4-82/21x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	**1.0**		**Excellent performer. BB**	**Oct 97**	**£900**	**9**
Sony CCD-TR3200	**4-82/21x/84x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	**1.0**		**Top-notch all-rounder. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£800**	**9**
Sony CCD-TR820	4.1-61.5/15x	●	A/M	●	●	Stereo	0.9		Good performance and features	Mar 98	£700	8
Sony CCD-TR913	**4.1-82/20x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	**0.95**		**Good performance/features. BB**	**Apr 00**	**£600**	**9**

8MM CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Exposure control	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Weight (kg)	Colour viewfinder	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Canon UC5000	**4-80/20x**		**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	**0.73**		**Well specified budget model. BB**	**Dec 97**	**£500**	**9**
Canon UC5500	**4-80/20x**		**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	**0.73**	●	**As above with colour viewfinder. BB**	**Dec 97**	**£550**	**9**
Canon UC900	**4-80/20x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	**1.0**		**Best Value Camcorder of the Year. BB**	**Nov 96**	**£650**	**10**
Sony CCD-TRV24	4.1-61.5/15x	●	A/M	●	●	Mono	0.89		Fair performer	April 98	£750	7
Sony TR401	5.3-68.9/13x		Auto		●	Mono	0.94		Well specified good quality budget model	Jun 97	£550	8
Sony CCD-TR411	**4.1-65.8/16**		**Auto**		●	**Mono**	**N/A**		**High-performance cam. BB**	**Jul 98**	**£450**	**9**
Sony CCD-TRV27	4.1-73.8/18x		A/M	●	●	Mono	0.99		Unfussy, basic cam	Aug 98	£650	9
Sony CCD-TRV35	**4.1-73.8/18x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Mono**	**N/A**		**Top features and AV performance. BB**	**Aug 98**	**£650**	**9**

TESTED products

SUPER VHS-C CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Exposure control	Manual focus	External mic.	Audio system	Audio dub	Weight (kg)	Colour viewfinder	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
JVC GR-SZ5000	**3.8-68.4/18x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	●	**1.08**		**Excellent value. BB**	**Oct 97**	**£900**	**9**
Panasonic NV-SX50	**3.9-66.3/17x**	●	**A/M**	●	●	**Stereo**	●	**0.8**	●	**Top picture quality. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£800**	**9**

VHS-C CAMCORDERS

Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Exposure control	Mic. socket	Audio system	Audio dub	Weight (kg)	Manual focus	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
JVC GR-AX670	**3.8-68.4/18x**	●	**A/M**	●	**Mono**	●	**0.82**	●	**Stacked with features. BB**	**Jun 97**	**£450**	**9**
JVC GR-AX680	**3.8-83.6/22x**	●	**A/M**	●	**Mono**		**1.01**	●	**Good picture quality and features. BB**	**Oct 98**	**£500**	**9**
JVC GR-AX480	**3.8-83.6/22x**	●	**A/M**		**Stereo**	●	**0.9**	●	**Decent price, manual features. BB**	**Feb 99**	**£450**	**9**
JVC GR-FXM15	**3.9-62.4/16x**	●	**A/M**		**Mono**	●	**0.9**	●	**Good price, all essential features. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£500**	**9**
Panasonic NV-RX9	3.9-54.6/14x	●	Auto		Mono		0.86		Fair value budget model	Jun 97	£450	7
Panasonic NV-RX11	3.8-81.9/21x		A/M		Mono		N/A	●	Easy to handle, lacks features	Jul 98	£400	8
Panasonic NV-VX21	3.9-81.9/21x		A/M		Mono		N/A	●	Fair picture but rather mediocre	Aug 98	£550	6
Panasonic NV-RX61	3.8-79.8./21x		A/M	●	Mono		N/A	●	Good features and easy to use	Oct 98	£500	8
Samsung VP-L50	3.9-62.4/16x	●	Auto	●	Mono		N/A		Good picture and easy to use	Aug 98	£530	7

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMCORDERS

Format	Model	Focal range	Image stabiliser	Exposure control	Manual focus	External mic	Audio system	Audio dub	Weight (kg)	Colour viewfinder	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
DV	**Canon DM-MV20**	**4.1-49/12x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.66**	●	**Stunning AV performer. BB**	**Aug 99**	**£1,000**	**9**
DV	**Canon MV1**	**5.4-75/14x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.93**	●	**Flexible high performer. BB**	**Dec 97**	**£1,600**	**9**
DV	**Canon MV10**	**3.9-62/16x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**N/A**	●	**Sensible design, quality output. BB**	**Mar 99**	**£1,400**	**9**
DV	**Canon MV100**	**3.9-42/11x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**		**N/A**	●	**Excellent AV performer. BB**	**Sep 98**	**£1,200**	**9**
DV	**Canon XM1**	**4.2-84/20x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**1.25**	●	**Great pic quality/ease of use. BB**	**Mar 00**	**£1,600**	**9**
DV	**JVC GR-DVM1**	**4.5-45/10x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.73**	●	**LCD version of GRDV1. BB**	**Sep 97**	**£2,000**	**9**
DV	**JVC GR-DVL9000**	**5-50/10x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.78**	●	**Full marks for picture/price. BB**	**Jun 98**	**£1,800**	**9**
DV	**JVC GR-DVF10**	**3.9-62/16x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.95**	●	**Amazing price for a DV cam. BB**	**May 99**	**£700**	**9**
DV	**Panasonic NV-DS5**	**4.7-47/10x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.7**	●	**Good on features/performance. BB**	**May 98**	**£1,700**	**9**
DV	**Panasonic NV-DS11**	**3.8-76/20x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.64**	●	**Well-designed, efficient cam. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£700**	**9**
DV	**Panasonic NV-DX100**	**4-48/12x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.8**	●	**Sensational picture/sound quality. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£2,000**	**10**
DV	**Panasonic NV-DA1**	**4-48/12x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.8**	●	**Outstanding picture/sound . BB**	**Dec 98**	**£1,300**	**9**
DV	Sharp VL-SD20	4.5-45/10x	●	M/A	●	●	PCM	●	0.56		Bit bulky but great DV intro cam. BB	Mar 00	£850	8
DV	**Sony DCR-VX700**	**5.9-59/10x**	●	**Man**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**1.4**	●	**Digital revolution started here. BB**	**Mar 96**	**£2,300**	**9**
Dig8	**Sony DCR-TR7000**	**3.6-72/20x**	●	**Man**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.95**	●	**DV at bargain price. BB**	**May 99**	**£900**	**9**
Dig8	**Sony DCR-TRV110**	**3.6-72/20x**	●	**Man**	●	●	**PCM**		**1**	●	**Spans analogue/digital divide. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£780**	**9**
DV	**Sony DCR-PC100**	**4.2-42/10x**	●	**M/A**	●	●	**PCM**	●	**0.67**	●	**Unparalleled results. Superb. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£1,500**	**9**

KEY TO CAMCORDER TABLES

Focal Range: Indicates the range of angles which the lens can convert at its wide and tele settings. **Image Stabiliser:** Built-in anti-shake mechanism. **Exposure Control: A for automatic, M for manual.** Exposure in many camcorders is fully automatic, but some have a backlight compensator for shooting against the light, or a manual iris for deliberate under or over-exposure. **Manual focus :** Serious users often prefer a manual option for greater control. **External Mic:** A socket to plug in an off-camera microphone. **Audio System:** Mono or stereo. **Audio Dub:** Replaces soundtrack without interfering with the picture. **Weight:** Including supplied battery and cassette. **Colour Viewfinder:** As distinct from the black and white variety. **Test Date:** If we've reviewed a camcorder you're interested in, you can order a copy of the test from our Test Reprints service. If the Test Reprints page is missing from this issue please telephone 020 7331 1000 for guidance. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

SURROUND SOUND AMPLIFIERS

Model	Dolby Digital	DTS	DPL	THX	Front amp (W)	Centre amp (W)	Rear amp (W)	Video inputs	S-video compat.	Audio inputs	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Arcam Alpha AV50			●		**2x50**	**55**	**2x50**	**2**		**7**	**Loads of video inputs, great sound. BB**	**Sep 97**	**£700**	**9**
Denon AVC-A1	●		●		2x140	140	2x140	7	●	11	Excellent one box Dolby Digital solution	Oct 97	£2,500	8
Denon AVR-900			●		2x60	60	2x15	2		3	Fine budget amp. Good value	Jan 96	£350	8
Denon AVC-1800			●		**2x50**	**50**	**2x50**	**2**	●	**4**	**Best Value Home Cinema Amp of the Year. BB**	**May 96**	**£550**	**10**
Denon AVC-3800	●		●		**2x90**	**90**	**2x90**	**4**	●	**11**	**Denon's first integrated DD amp. BB**	**Jun 97**	**£1,800**	**10**
Denon AVP-A1	●		●	●	**2x150**	**150**	**2x150**	**3**	●	**11**	**Best Home Cinema Innovation of the Year. BB**	**Nov 96**	**£4,900**	**10**
Futronix HTS-650			●		**2x25**	**25**	**2x12**			**4**	**Great sound at a great price. BB**	**Aug 98**	**£150**	**9**
Harman Kardon AVI100			●		2x30	30	2x20	2		5	Good performer for an excellent price	May 98	£200	8
Pioneer VSA805S			●		**2x80**	**80**	**2x40**	**2**		**4**	**Pro-Logic amp. BB**	**Feb 97**	**£450**	**9**
Rotel RB-956X	N/A				2x30	30	2x30	N/A		N/A	Price includes RSP-960X preamp/decoder	Jan 97	£725	8
Rotel RB 985			●	●	2x100	100	2x100	N/A		N/A	Best Buy THX rated power amp	Jan 97	£725	9
Sony STR-DB930	●	●	●		**5x100**	**100**	**2x100**	**3**		**10**	**Superb upgrade from DB925. Definite BB**	**Dec 99**	**£600**	**9**
Sony TA-VE700			●		**2x45**	**45**	**2x12.5**	**3**	●	**8**	**Budget Pro-Logic amp. BB**	**Jun 97**	**£350**	**9**
Sunfire Cinema Grand			●		2x100	100	2x40			10	Powerful, but suffers by comparison	Mar 98	£2,280	7
Yamaha DSP-A1	●	●			**2x110**	**110**	**2x110**	**2**	●	**10**	**Supreme value and AV performance. BB**	**Jun 98**	**£1,600**	**10**
Yamaha DSP-A1092	●		●		**2x80**	**80**	**2x80**	**2**	●	**9**	**Superb all-round amp. BB**	**Sep 97**	**£850**	**10**
Yamaha DSP-A592			●		**2x70**	**70**	**2x35**	**4**	●	**8**	**Dirt cheap, superb performer. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£330**	**9**
Yamaha DSP-A3090	●		●		**2x80**	**80**	**2x25**	**5**	●	**10**	**Best Home Cinema Amp of the Year. BB**	**Sep 96**	**£1,700**	**10**

KEY TO AMPS, RECEIVERS, PROCESSORS AND SYSTEMS

System: Various types are available, including integrated amplifiers, processors (which amplify the effects channels only), receivers (incorporating an amplifier and a tuner) and mini and midi systems, complete with Dolby Surround or Dolby Pro-Logic (DPL) amplifier, tape deck(s), tuner and sometimes a CD player. **Surround Sound:** Dolby Surround and Pro-Logic both offer a rear surround channel. Additionally, Pro-Logic has a centre channel for speech. Dolby Digital AC-3 offers 5.1 discrete channels. THX is a stringent set of sonic home cinema standards. **Front/Centre/Rear Amplification:** The RMS (Root Mean Square) or average power output per channel. **Video Inputs:** Total number of composite inputs for video sources, including VCR, satellite and laser disc. **S-video Compatible:** Dedicated S-video inputs for high-band video processing. **Audio Inputs:** Total number. **Test Date:** If we've reviewed an AV amplifier you're interested in, you can order a copy of the test from our Test Reprints service. **Rating:** Ratings are based on full tests of equipment.

SURROUND SOUND RECEIVERS

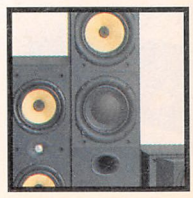
Model	Surround sound	Front amp (W)	Centre amp (W)	Rear amp (W)	Video inputs	S-video compat.	Audio inputs	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Aiwa AV-X100	**Pro-Logic**	**2x60**	**60**	**2x10**	**1**		**5**	**Great performance and price. BB**	**May 97**	**£250**	**9**
Denon AVR 3200	**DD/DPL**	**2x80**	**80**	**2x80**	**2**	●	**6**	**Classy Dolby Digital performer. BB**	**Jan 98**	**£1,000**	**9**
Denon AVR-600RD	Pro-Logic	2x50	50	2x15	2		5	Easy to use, good value for money	Mar 97	£300	8
Denon AVR-3300	DD/DTS	2x105	105	2x105	2	●	9	Classy performer & good value	Jan 00	£800	8
Denon AVR-1800	**DD/DTS**	**2x75**	**75**	**2x75**	**5**		**8**	**Infallible receiver at a great price. BB**	**Apr 00**	**£450**	**9**
Harman Kardon AVR11	**Pro-Logic**	**2x40**	**45**	**2x22.5**	**2**		**4**	**Great performance for budget model. BB**	**April 98**	**£300**	**9**
Harman Kardon AVR80	**THX/DPL**	**2x85**	**85**	**2x60**	**2**	●	**3**	**Full-blown receiver. BB**	**Sep 96**	**£1,500**	**9**
Harman Kardon AVR18	**DPL**	**2x35**	**35**	**2x35**	**2**		**3**	**Great-sounding DPL receiver. BB**	**Jun 99**	**£300**	**9**
JVC RX-416VBK	**Pro-Logic**	**2x50**	**50**	**2x13**	**2**		**5**	**Budget Pro-Logic receiver. BB**	**Apr 96**	**£270**	**9**
Kenwood KR-V5570	**Pro-Logic**	**2x50**	**50**	**2x20**	**2**		**5**	**Great value Pro-Logic receiver. BB**	**Feb 96**	**£299**	**9**
Kenwood KR-V7070	**Pro-Logic**	**2x100**	**100**	**2x28**	**2**		**7**	**Great budget receiver. BB**	**Sep 95**	**£400**	**10**
Kenwood KR-7080	**Pro-Logic**	**2x100W**	**100W**	**2x28W**	**2**		**4**	**Budget receiver with RDS tuner. BB**	**Jul 96**	**£380**	**9**
Kenwood KR-V8090	Pro-Logic	2x100	100	2x100	3		4	Great price for what you get	Nov 98	£300	8
Kenwood KR-V888D	DD/DPL	2x120	120	2x60	2		6	Powerful, but disappointing lack of S-video	Mar 98	£1,000	8
Kenwood KRF-V7010	Pro-Logic	2x110	110	2x55	3	●	4	Top marks for price and sound	Sep 97	£400	8
Onkyo TX-DS838	DD/DPL	2x90	90	2x50	2	●	9	Superb performance, reasonably priced	May 97	£1,300	8
Onkyo TX-SV444	**Pro-Logic**	**2x60**	**60**	**2x20**	**1**		**3**	**Good value, few weaknesses. BB**	**May 98**	**£330**	**9**
Onkyo TX-SV828	**DPL/THX**	**2x90**	**90**	**2x50**	**4**	●	**4**	**THX powerhouse. BB**	**Mar 97**	**£1,300**	**9**
Onkyo TX-SV434	Pro-Logic	2x55	55	2x20	1		4	Competitively priced, fair performer	Apr 97	£400	7
Pioneer VSX-908RDS	DD/THX	2x110	110	2x110	5		9	Gutsy amp – perfect for home cinema	Jan 00	£850	8
Pioneer VSA-E07	**DD/THX**	**2x130**	**130**	**2x130**	**5**		**10**	**Superior performance, a dream to use. BB**	**Mar 00**	**£1,300**	**9**
Sherwood R-925RDS	**DD/DPL**	**2x100**	**100**	**2x100**	**5**		**11**	**Stunning Dolby Digital performance. BB**	**April 98**	**£400**	**9**
Sherwood R-945RDS	**DD/DTS**	**2x100**	**100**	**2x100**	**6**	●	**8**	**Cracking receiver with DTS/AC-3. BB**	**Jul 98**	**£600**	**10**
Sherwood R-125RDS	**Pro-Logic**	**2x35**	**35**	**2x35**	**1**		**3**	**Incredibly good value. BB**	**Jul 97**	**£150**	**9**
Sherwood RV-4080R	**Pro-Logic**	**2x30**	**30**	**2x30**	**1**		**6**	**Amazing value. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£100**	**9**
Yamaha DSP-A595	**DD/DPL**	**2x65**	**65**	**2x65**	**4**	●	**6**	**Excellent receiver at a great price. BB**	**Aug 99**	**£300**	**9**

SURROUND SOUND PROCESSORS

Model	Dolby Digital	DTS	Pro-Logic	THX	Video inputs	S-video compat.	Audio inputs	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Cyrus AV Master			●		**N/A**		**4**	**Stylish upgrade. BB**	**Aug 96**	**£650**	**9**
Denon AVD-2000	●		●		**N/A**		**5**	**Brilliant piece of kit. BB**	**Jul 98**	**£380**	**10**
Denon AVD-1000		●					**2**	**Superb DTS sound performance. BB**	**May 99**	**£300**	**9**
Lexicon DC-2	●	●	●	●	●	●	**8**	**Consummate home cinema performer. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£3,800**	**9**
Marantz DP870U	●		●				**6**	**Dolby Digital decoder. BB**	**Apr 97**	**£600**	**9**
Onkyo ED-901	●		●	●	**2**	●	**5**	**Dolby Digital decoding processor. BB**	**Mar 97**	**£700**	**9**
Pioneer SP-D07	●		●				5	Dolby Digital decoder	Apr 97	£800	7
Pioneer VSA-E06	●		●	●	**3**	●	**12**	**Great looking. BB**	**Nov 97**	**£1,400**	**9**
Sony SDP-EP9OES	●		●		N/A		5	Excellent sound quality and range of inputs	Jul 98	£600	8
Sony SDP-EP9ES	●		●				**5**	**Offers MPEG 5.1. BB**	**Oct 97**	**£600**	**9**
Technics SH-AC-300	●		●		N/A		3	Great price and sound; no Dolby Digital RF input	Jul 98	£300	8
Yamaha DDP-2	●		●		N/A		2	Excellent sound and price	Jul 98	£350	7

SURROUND MINI AND MIDI SYSTEMS

System	Model	Surround sound	Front amp (W)	Centre amp (W)	Rear amp (W)	Video inputs	Audio inputs	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
Midi	Aiwa Z-VR88	Pro-Logic	2x100	38	2x38		2	Good power handling and price	Dec 98	£400	8
Mini	**Akai TX-710**	**Pro-Logic**	**2x50**	**26**	**2x26**		**2**	**Budget Pro-Logic mini system. BB**	**Feb 97**	**£400**	**9**
Mini	**Denon D-77/AVC-99**	**Pro-Logic**	**3x30**	**15**	**2x15**		**5**	**Full marks for sound. BB**	**Jul 97**	**£1,150**	**9**
Mini	**JVC CA-MXJ75R**	**Pro-Logic**	**2x100**	**25**	**2x25**		**1**	**Exceptional system. BB**	**May 99**	**£300**	**9**
Mini	**Philips FW672P**	**Pro-Logic**	**2x65**	**65**	**2x35**		**1**	**Home One-Box Cinema System of the Year. BB**	**Dec 96**	**£600**	**9**
Mini	**Philips FW790P**	**Pro-Logic**	**2x65**	**65**	**2x35**	**0**	**2**	**Meaty front soundstage and good price. BB**	**May 98**	**£500**	**9**
Mini	Samsung Max-632P	Pro-Logic	2x50	20	2x10	0	5	Good value	Mar 98	£380	8
Mini	**Sharp CD-C491H**	**Pro-Logic/DD**	**2x80**	**80**	**2x80**	**2**	**2**	**'Wipes the floor with other mini systems'. BB**	**Feb 99**	**£600**	**9**
N/A	**Sony DPL-VE110**	**Pro-Logic**	**2 x 25**	**25**	**2 x 10**		**4**	**Cheap surround sound with active sub. BB**	**Feb 98**	**£380**	**9**



TESTED products

HOME CINEMA SPEAKER PACKAGES

Model	System	Comments	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
AE 100 series	**2 x surrounds + 1 centre + 1 x subwoofer**	**What home cinema was invented for. BB**	**Apr 99**	**£850**	**9**
B&W 600 Series 2	603 S2 + LCR6 S2 + DS6	Powerful, controlled Pro-Logic system	Dec 99	£1,300	8
Celestion C series	**2 x C2 + 2 x C5r + C4c Centre + C6s**	**Fabulous performance. Definite BB**	**Jan 00**	**£1,900**	**10**
Energy Take5 system	**3 x Take2 + 1 x Take1 + 1 x e:XL-S8 sub**	**Excellent micro system. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£650**	**9**
Mirage Omnipolar system	**2 x OM-6 + 2 x OM-C2 + 2 x OM-R2 + BPS-400**	**Best Buy. Well worth the money**	**Apr 99**	**£5,000**	**9**
Jamo speaker package	**2 x Art + 2 x Artina + Art Centre +SW-505E**	**Solid and well matched. Best Buy**	**Sep 98**	**£890**	**9**
JBL CM 52 system	4 x CM52 + Sub 10 + CM Centre	Improved performance on CM42 system	Sep 98	£600	8
Kef Q Series	2 x Q35 + 2xQ15 + 1 x Q95C + 1x Q30B	Excellent fronts and sub	Mar 98	£1,100	8
Mirage AVS-500	**AVS-200 x 4 + AVS-100 + PS-8CE**	**Best Buy. Fresh and clear sound**	**Sep 98**	**£800**	**9**
Polk Audio RM65/140 system	**4 x RM2300 + 1 x RM2600 + 1 x PSW140 2 x Cube rear**	**Best Buy. Great system, superb sub**	**Sep 99**	**£1,350**	**9**
Rogers Speaker System	2xGS6 + 1xCC1 + xGS5 + 1xASB60.	Good mid-range home cinema package.	Jun 98	£1,955	8
Tannoy Definition D-500/D-750	**4 x D-500 + 1 x D-750**	**Stunning 3D soundstage, top marks for D-750**	**Feb 98**	**£5,000**	**10**
Yamaha NS-P400 system	2 x NS40 + 1 x NS-C40 + 2 x NS-E40 + 1 x SW-P40 sub	Good price and performance	Sep 98	£250	8

KEY TO SPEAKERS

Most conventional hi-fi speakers can be used as home cinema speakers. However, if you plan to use any speaker(s) within a few feet of the TV screen, you must choose a magnetically shielded model. Pro-Logic Centre Speakers are designed to handle dialogue in a Pro-Logic system. They should be sited on, or beneath, the TV. Subwoofers are low-frequency speakers designed to handle bass signals. They're sometimes used in conjunction with tiny satellite speakers, which handle the mid and high frequencies.

Magnetically Shielded: Fitted with a second magnet, of opposite polarity from that fitted to conventional hi-fi loud-speaker, to prevent colour-staining of the picture when placed close to the TV.

Impedance: Measurement of the load which the speaker presents to the amplifier.

Sensitivity: The efficiency of a speaker, measured in terms of the decibel (dB) rating at 1m from the speaker with 1W of amplification.

DVD PLAYERS

System	Model	RGB	Digital outputs	Scart	S-video	Comment	Test date	Guide price	Rating (1-10)
PAL/NTSC	**Bush DVD2000**		●	**1**	●	**Classy looks and excellent picture performance. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£200**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Denon DVD-3000**	●	●	**2**	●	**Superior DVD with Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder. BB**	**Oct 98**	**£700**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Denon DVM-3700**		●	**0**	●	**Audio/videophiles dream player. BB**	**Apr 00**	**£1,000**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Hitachi DV-P250**	●	●	**1**	●	**Superior to bargain decks for little extra cash. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£320**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	Konka KD-1800		●	0	●	Highly impressive R1 player at incredible price	Feb 00	£100	8
PAL/NTSC	**LG DVD-2330**		●	**1**	●	**Solid perfomer, very easy to use. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£250**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Matsui DVD 110**	●	●	**1**		**Real bargain and great performer for the price. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£180**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Panasonic DVD-A350**	●	●	**2**	●	**Awesome DVD with Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder. BB**	**May 98**	**£700**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Panasonic DVDA360**	●	●	**2**	●	**Superlative picture & sound plus DTS decoding. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£550**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	Panasonic DVD-A160		●	2	●	Reasonable quality but overpriced player	Mar 00	£300	8
PAL/NTSC	Philips DVD750	●	2	●		Sonic prowess and a decent picture.	Feb 00	£290	8
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer NS-DV1		●	2	●	Great DVD player, shame about incorporated speaker package	Mar 00	£1,500	8
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer CLD-D925**		●	**2**		**Best Laser Disc Player of the Year winner. BB**	**Oct 96**	**£800**	**10**
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer DV-606D**		●	**0**	●	**Excellent Region 1 player, easily modifiable. BB**	**Dec 98**	**£500**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer DV-626**	●	●	**1**	●	**Audiophile's delight. Lip-sync problems resolved. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£450**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer DVL909**		●	**2**	●	**Stunning DVD/LD combi player. BB**	**Jun 98**	**£900**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer DV-717**	●	●	**2**	●	**Excellent picture, sound and DTS included. BB**	**Feb 99**	**£600**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer DV-05**	●	●	**0**	●	**THX-certified star player. BB**	**May 99**	**£600**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Pioneer DV-515**	●	●	**1**	●	**Best Buy. DTS/Dolby Digital player. BB**	**Jul 99**	**£450**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	Pioneer DV-525	●	●	1	●	Horrible handset but above-average AV performance	Apr 00	£280	8
PAL/NTSC	**Proline DVD1000**	●	●	**1**	●	**Astonishing performance for the money. BB**	**Dec 99**	**£185**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Samsung DVD-807**	●	●	**1**		**Best Buy. Revolutionary budget player. BB**	**Jun 99**	**£250**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Samsung DVD-709**	●	●	**1**	●	**Amazing quality for a player at this price. BB**	**Oct 99**	**£250**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Samsung DVD-909**	●	●	**1**	●	**Excellent performance for the money. BB**	**Nov 99**	**£380**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	Sony DVP-S325	●	●	2	●	Above-par, though not breathtaking performer	Mar 00	£350	8
PAL/NTSC	**Sony DVP-S725**	●	●	**2**	●	**Very slick piece of kit, top-notch video processing. BB**	**Aug 99**	**£550**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Sony DVP-S525**	●	●	**2**	●	**Top-notch mid-range machine at a decent price. BB**	**Sept 99**	**£450**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Sony DVP-F11**		●	**1**	●	**Top-notch performance from portable player. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£400**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Sony DVP-CX850D**	●	●	**2**	●	**State-of-the-art 200-disc changing player. BB**	**Mar 00**	**£600**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Thomson DTH-2000**	●	●	**2**	●	**Exemplary DVD player for picture performance. BB**	**Aug 98**	**£500**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	Tatung TDV-2000		●	0	●	A performance that belies the price & decent feature list	Jan 00	£300	8
PAL/NTSC	**Toshiba SD-2109**	●	●	**2**	●	**Impressive, easy to use performer. BB**	**Aug 99**	**£360**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Toshiba SD-3109**	●	●	**1**	●	**Cracking dual-tray player with built-in DD decoder. BB**	**Nov 99**	**£500**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Toshiba SD-9000**		●	**0**	●	**Classy looks & exemplary performance. BB**	**Jan 00**	**£800**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Yamaha DVD-S700**		●	**0**	●	**Fine DVD player with Dolby Digital/MPEG 5.1 decoder. BB**	**Nov 98**	**£600**	**9**
PAL/NTSC	**Wharfedale DVD-750**	●	●	**1**	●	**Easily hackable, good quality budget deck. BB**	**Feb 00**	**£180**	**9**

KEY TO DVD PLAYERS

System: Almost all Region 2 players are NTSC-compatible as well as PAL, because Japan is included in R2 and uses NTSC. This does not denote Region 1 compatibility, although American discs coded Region 0 will play on these players.

RGB (Red/Green/Blue): The best way to view an AV input, usually via Scart. Check for TV compatibility.

S-video: Second-best way to view an AV input, either via Scart or dedicated S-video input. **Scart:** An inidication of the number of sockets.

Digital output (for bitstream audio connection to surround sound decoder): O= optical digtial output via fibre optic connection; C= coaxial digital output. Opinions vary as to which is best, so ideally look to have both.

DTS (Digital Theatre Systems): Rival 5.1-surround sound system to Dolby Digital. Connect player's digital output to a compatible receiver.

Dolby Digital 5.1 outputs: This means the Dolby Digital 5.1 channels are decoded internally & can be connected directly by phono sockets to a surround sound amplifier (a dedicated decoder/receiver is not required).

Comments: any additional notes of interest, eg CD-R/RW-compatible – will play recordable CD media; component video out – suitable for high-end TVs and projectors; quasi-PAL NTSC conversion – converts NTSC to PAL or PAL60 for TVs without full NTSC compatibility.

contacts

A

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Akura UK: ☎ 020 8951 4323.
www.akura.com
Alba: ☎ 020 8787 3111
Allison UK: ☎ 01484 603333
Amstrad: ☎ 01277 228888
Antiference: ☎ 01296 482511
Arcam: ☎ 01223 203203
www.arcam.co.uk
Astra: ☎ 0345 697750
www.astra.lu
Audiovector: see **Glaive**

B

B&W Loudspeakers:
☎ 01903 750750
www.bwspeakers.com
Bandridge: ☎ 020 8543 3633
Bang & Olufsen:
☎ 0321 300313
www.bang-olufsen.com
Barco: ☎ 0118 9664611
www.barco.com
BBC: ☎ 020 8743 8000
www.bbc.co.uk
BBC Reception Advice:
☎ 08700 100123
www.bbc.co.uk/digital
BBG Distribution:
☎ 020 8863 9117
Beko: ☎ 01923 818121
Bose: ☎ 01795 475341
www.bose.com
Boston Acoustics:
☎ 01489 795519
www.bostonacoustics.com
Brema: ☎ 020 7930 3206
British Telecom:
☎ 0800 800829
www.bt.co.uk
Bush: ☎ 020 8787 3111

C

Cable TV Hotline:
☎ 0990 111777
Cable & Wireless Communications:
☎ 0500 500 500
www.cwcom.co.uk
Cambridge Audio: See **Richer Sounds**
Canon: ☎ 0800 616417
www.canon.co.uk
Celestion:
☎ 01622 687442
Channel 4: ☎ 020 7306 8333
www.channel4.co.uk
Channel 5: ☎ 0345 050 505
www.channel5.co.uk
Comet: ☎ 01923 714550
www.comet.co.uk
Confederation of Aerial Industries: ☎ 020 8902 8998
CSE: ☎ 01423 359054
Currys: ☎ 020 8419 3000
Cyrus: see **Mission**
www.cyrus.co.uk

D

Daewoo: ☎ 0118 925 2500
Definitive: See **Gecko**
Denon: ☎ 01234 741200
www.denon.co.jp
Dixons: ☎ 020 8419 3000
www.dixons-group-plc.co.uk
Dolby: ☎ 01793 842100
www.dolby.com
DTS: ☎ 0118 934 9199
www.dtstech.com

E

Epos Acoustics:
☎ 01705 492555
www.epos-acoustics.com

F

Ferguson: See **Thomson**
FilmFour: ☎ 0800 441234
www.filmfour.co.uk
Fuji: ☎ 020 7586 5900
www.fujifilm.co.uk/-audiovideo
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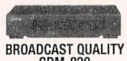
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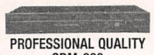
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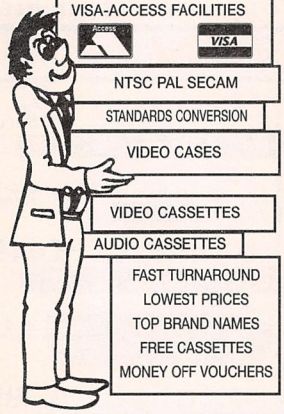

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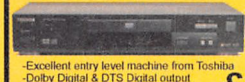
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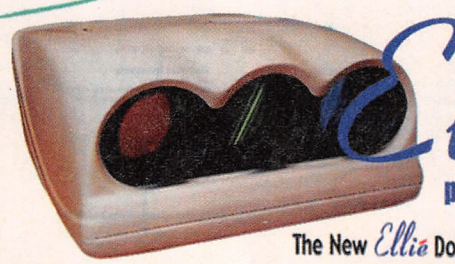

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BOOBY PRIZES

Forget the Oscars, the *Stop/Eject* Film & DVD Awards are the real deal. Johnny Deep lists the lucky winners and unfortunate runners-up

With the prestigious Golden Globes grabbing every available column inch, and the tedium-inducing Academy Awards ceremony imminent, awards fever is rife. Jumping on the bandwagon of free publicity, *What Video & TV* is proud to present the first-ever *Stop/Eject* Film & DVD Awards.

WORST THEATRICAL RELEASE OF THE YEAR

Winner: *Star Wars Episode One: The Phantom Menace*
Runners-up: *Wild Wild West; The Beach; The End Of Days; Entrapment*

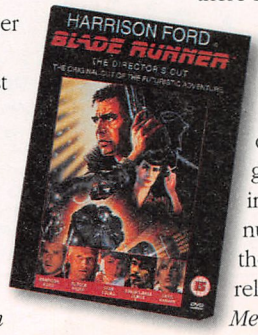
This was a close-run category, with numerous releases abysmal enough to win the award. *Entrapment* is an ageing script-writer's wish-fulfilment about his flagging sex drive, while *The End Of Days* is an out-of-date action movie which bangs the final nail into the coffin of Arnie's career.

Then there's the miserable adaptation of a half-baked page-turner better known as *The Beach*. The first runner-up and the winner both share a taste for blatant racism, but *Wild Wild West* failed to top the poll as we all knew it would be appalling.

The worst movie of the year was undoubtedly *The Phantom Menace*, which was not only incredibly racist, it also tried to make a discussion about taxes and trade routes into rivetting entertainment. Tedium incarnate.

MOVIE MOST WANTED ON DVD

Winner: *Fire On The Amazon*



Why choose an un-released Roger Corman title as the film we most want to see on our favourite format? Well, as revealed in last month's *Stop/Eject* (p162), *Fire On The Amazon* features wholesome star Sandra Bullock indulging in 'canine-style' sex scenes. What better use of DVD's pin-sharp slo-mo and freeze-frame functions can you think of?

WORST REGION 2 DVD OF THE YEAR

Winner: *Blade Runner – Director's Cut* (Warner Home Video)

Runners-up: *Pulp Fiction* (Warner Home Video); *The Wanderers* (Arrow); *Caligula* (Penthouse); *Broken Arrow* (Twentieth Century Fox)

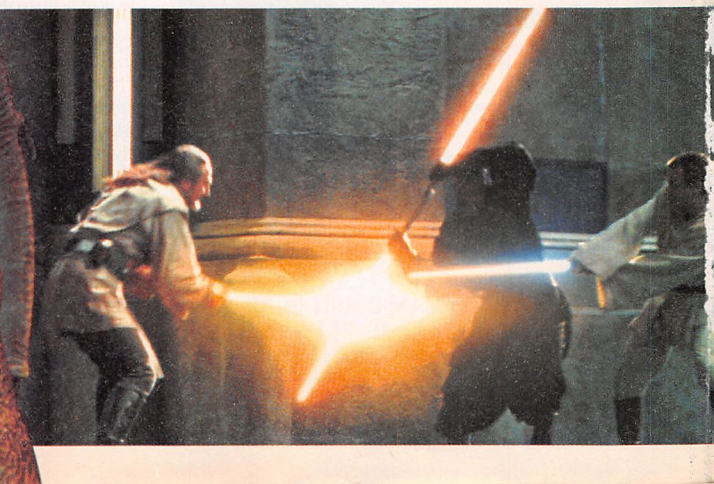
The runners-up may be disappointing for one reason or another, but none of them committed as many sins against DVD as the *Blade Runner – Director's Cut* disc, for the following reasons:

1. Considering the heritage of the film, not to mention director Ridley Scott's commitment to providing audio commentaries for DVD releases of his films, there must be bucket-loads of supplementary material available. In addition to the commentary you'd expect documentaries, photo galleries, interviews, information on the numerous versions of the film which have been released, comparisons with *Metropolis* and other sci-fi classics, not to mention trailers.

But no, typically for a Warner Home Video release, the disc contains nothing but the film.

2. A dreary Dolby Surround soundtrack, which rarely rises above the quality of previous VHS releases. The soundstage is muddled and confused, with barely an intelligible line of dialogue to be discerned.

3. Worst of all is the hideous, muddy brown transfer, which is as grainy as a five-year-old off-air VHS recording. It also breaks up into 'blocky' artefacts far too often ❐



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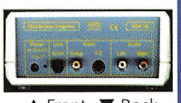

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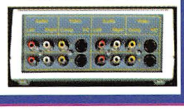

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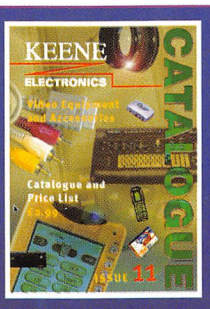

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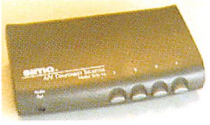

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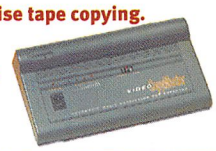

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